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Saudi leaks reveal new evidence in nurses case

BY DANIEL McGRORY

SAUDI newspapers yesterday disclosed apparently damning new evidence against the two British nurses accused of murdering a hospital colleague.

Diplomats were surprised at what they describe as "unprecedented leaks" of the case against Lucille McLaughlin, 31, from Dundee, and Deborah Parry, 41, from the Midlands, which they believe must have been sanctioned by the authorities.

Graphic details of how the women allegedly tried to cover up their part in the murder and their supposed separate confessions were released as part of what observers believe is an effort by the Saudis to defend their much criticised legal system.

British diplomats who expect to visit the two nurses today in the women's prison in Dharhan refused to speculate as to why the Saudi press carried detail that could have come only from the police.

The Al-Hayat newspaper reported that the women taunted 55-year-old Yvonne Gilford that she was "an old woman" no longer of capable of doing her job and who was about to be dismissed from the King Fahd Military Medical College where all three worked.

One of the Britons is said to have hit the Australian theatre nurse with a teapot and then stabbed her with a kitchen knife in the back, chest and face.

The newspaper said that after the murder on December 11 the two nurses straightened furniture and wiped away fingerprints. This "explained" why investigators were able to find only one print from one of the Britons despite their admission that both were frequent visitors to Miss Gilford's bedroom in their shared flat.

Police sources are quoted about how they were told by the National Commercial Bank that the victim's

bank card was being used three days after her murder with 5,000 riyals (about £1,000) withdrawn on three successive days.

Police are said to have watched the suspects leave the hospital and take a taxi to a shopping centre where one of them went to a bank machine.

She is reported to have confessed when police arrested her and the newspaper says her alleged accomplice confessed two days later.

Saudi journalists have also been briefed by police about lurid suggestions of how a lesbian relationship or moneylending might have been the motive. It is alleged that Miss Gifford would lend money to new recruits until they received pay cheques.

Diplomats have been surprised at the interest Saudis have taken in the case. Observers have suggested that mindful of Western criticism of the fairness of its strict Sharia courts and the punishment of public beheading, the Saudis are allowing incriminating evidence to be published.

A dossier said to include confessions, forensic evidence and the testimony of other nurses has been sent to the Governor of Eastern Province who will decide the next step. He can decide whether the case goes before a Sharia court, dismiss the allegations or seek deportation.

Such is the Saudi sensitivity about its handling of this case that its Ambassador in London, Dr Ghazi Al-Gosaibi, issued a statement stressing that the women would receive a fair trial and that no confession would be regarded as valid unless given before the Islamic judges.

Should a death sentence be passed then the final judgement will rest with the victim's family. Frank Gilford, the victim's brother, said at the weekend that he might now intervene.



Jill and William Willis who died trying to rescue their pet Tara from a former gravel pit in Essex. The dog survived



Couple die in frozen lake as they try to rescue dog

BY ADRIAN LEE

A MARRIED couple died yesterday after falling through ice as they ventured on a frozen lake to try to save their dog.

Another man who went into the water in a vain attempt to reach William and Jill Willis also became trapped and was rescued by a park ranger.

The dog, a labrador, struggled free unaided from the former gravel pit at Belhus Wood Country Park, at Aveley, near Grays, Essex.

Mrs Willis, who was in the water for about an hour, showed signs of life but died after she was airlifted to the Whitechapel Hospital in East London. Doctors hoped to slowly warm her blood and restart her body systems which had been slowed by extreme cold. People have survived submersion in cold water for long periods but Mrs Willis died shortly after arrival.

Mr Willis, a self-employed electrician and decorator, was submerged for more than two hours and was declared dead at the scene.

Witnesses said the dog ran on to the ice where Mr Willis saw it was in trouble. He fell into nine feet of water and his wife, who tried to reach him, also became trapped. Firemen stretched an inflatable bridge — normally used in rescues from mud flats — across the ice and inched their way to the spot where the pair, both 58 and from Upminster, were last seen.

Mrs Willis was found first, standing upright, and pulled out by her clothes. She was unconscious but a doctor raised a heartbeat using electronic equipment. A police diver, PC Guy Hicks, working

in zero visibility, later found Mr Willis lying on the lake bed but, although he was given heart massage, there was no sign of life.

Peter Odell, 44, a park ranger, described how he joined the rescue effort after the alarm was raised just before 9am. "When I arrived there was a man in a lifebelt in the water up to his waist. The other two had gone under by then. I believe he had got to one of them but could not hold on. He was himself clinging to the ice but could not pull himself out. His wife helped us get a rope to him and we hauled him on to the bank. He was shaking and his hands were turning blue. We wrapped him in overalls and coats. It was wonderful to get him out. At one stage we thought we were going to lose him too. He was very brave."

The second couple were both being treated for hypothermia last night.

The victims' son, Steven, said: "The whole thing has been a terrible shock. They were a very loving couple and at least they are together now. That is the only comfort we can take from it."

Mr Willis, a former Merchant Navy sailor, and his wife who have another son, Richard, had owned their pet, Tara, for about a year.

"The dog was like a third son to them," said Steven Willis.

Assistant Divisional Officer Barry Cable of Essex Fire and Rescue Service said it was an all-too-familiar accident. A year ago, an 11-year-old girl, Tracey Patterson, and two would-be rescuers, Michael Mee, 48, and Jack Crawshaw,

Continued on page 2, col 3

Solicitors face £25m action

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

SIXTY-FIVE solicitors' firms are being taken to the High Court over mortgage losses in an action that could eventually cost the profession up to £25 million and change the system whereby one lawyer acts for both borrower and lender in conveyancing deals.

The Bristol & West Building Society is suing over £6 million of property losses incurred between 1988 and 1991. It claims that the solicitors should have warned the society that their borrower-clients were a bad risk.

The Solicitors' Indemnity Fund, which would have to pay out on the

claims if the suit succeeded, knows of at least 80 similar cases and believes there could be up to 300 more, worth up to £25 million, awaiting the outcome of the February action.

In common with other building societies, the Bristol & West repossessed hundreds of properties at the peak of the market in the late 80s, but was then unable to recoup its losses when prices plummeted.

Solicitors in conveyancing transactions act both for borrower and lender, and the main issue in the case will be what duty the lawyer has to warn mortgage companies

about their clients' financial difficulties. The court will have to decide whether failure to pass on information amounted to a breach of contract, a breach of trust, or negligence.

The Bristol & West claim covers 84 transactions involving properties of varying values. The society

would not discuss the action, but a spokesman said: "It is our policy to seek redress for our members where we perceive there to be negligence, recklessness or fraud."

Some of the issues raised by the action have already been aired in a

Continued on page 2, col 6

Fears of new year IRA bombings

Significant changes to the membership of the army council of the Provisional IRA have added to fears that a bombing campaign is imminent. The police and MI5 were surprised that there was no pre-Christmas attack and are prepared for a terrorist campaign in the new year. Everyone protected by police bodyguards have been warned that an assassination attempt is possible

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Israel 'will stay in Hebron forever'

The Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, pledged that Israel would stay in Hebron permanently as he faced strong resistance from some of his ministers to a troop redeployment. Mr Netanyahu must seek the approval of the Cabinet after an agreement is signed transferring 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian control

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A PRESS AD



for 6 CD autochanger



HONDA

Posy for sweet William

MOST of the flowers being clutched by a group of very young children outside Sandringham parish church yesterday were for the Queen. But not the bunch of pink carnations in the hand of 15-year-old Alex Miller, they were for Prince William (Alan Hamilton).

Alex hid herself among the group of 26 three and four-year-olds waiting for the royal family to emerge from Sunday morning service and waited until the others had presented their posies. When the Queen asked Alex if the flowers were for her, she replied,

"He came forward, went red, took the flowers, said thank you, and then walked away." Alex said later: "I think he is just lovely, what a marvellous boyfriend he would make."

"What a relief! For one moment I thought we were going to Charles"



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Abortion is not an election issue, says Labour



Robertson said that Labour MPs would not be coerced

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR member of the Shadow Cabinet said yesterday that Labour MPs would not be cowed by the election threat posed by a new highly organised anti-abortion movement.

George Robertson, the Shadow Scottish Secretary, became the first senior party figure to speak against the challenge posed to Labour MPs by the Pro-Life Alliance, which is planning to fight at least 50 constituencies. The alliance, buoyed by the attack on abortion yesterday by Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, is planning to launch its manifesto in London at the end of January.

A film of an abortion during the late stages of pregnancy will be

shown. Depending on reaction to the film, the movement will decide whether to repeat the film during a party political election broadcast, which it will be granted if it fields 50 candidates.

Mr Robertson, MP for Hamilton, was saddened by the Pro-Life Alliance's decision to move abortion into the election arena. He said: "Abortion has always been seen as a critical matter of conscience. That is the way it should always remain."

He was among those who led opposition to left-wing demands in the mid-1980s to make support for abortion a mandatory party policy for every Labour candidate, irrespective of their religious and moral beliefs. He easily beat off a deselection attempt in his constituency over his stance on the issue.

Proposals by trade union leaders to restore formal links with a Tony Blair-led government were swiftly rejected by the Labour party leadership yesterday. John Edmonds, leader of the GMB Union, has drawn up an election manifesto advocating the re-establishment of a formal forum in which union leaders could engage in dialogue with Cabinet ministers and employers. Stephen Byers, Labour's employment spokesman, said: "There will be no return to the old days of beer and sandwiches at Number 10. We have no plans to set up any formal machinery of government of the type proposed by John Edmonds. We are not going back. We are going forward."

Mr Robertson said MPs who supported a woman's right to choose would not be cowed. "The Labour Party is not going to be coerced. Individual Labour MPs are not going to be coerced into subverting their individual judgment by these sort of tactics. They will not work."

The only member of the Shadow

Cabinet who is not targeted is Tom Clarke, a Roman Catholic who is spokesman on the disabled. Tony Blair who opposes abortion but has never voted against it in the Commons, is unlikely to be opposed because the Tory and Liberal Democrat candidates in his constituency are pro-life supporters.

They suggest that abortion is the primary moral question: it is not. She said she favoured a law regulating the availability of abortion but leaving it to the individual to make her choice.

The Tories too have difficulties on the issue. Dr Robert Spink, the MP for Castle Point, broke ranks yesterday when he admitted he could not support a Tory candidate at the general election who supported abortion.

He told GMTV's programme Sunday: "I wouldn't vote for them.

That's my choice. I wouldn't advise anyone else how they should vote." Pressed over what he would do if he faced by a pro-life Labour candidate and a pro-choice Tory, he replied: "I would find it very difficult to vote for the Conservative candidate. I would probably spoil my ballot paper."

The Pro-Life Alliance has received a pledge of £25,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman of Harrods, which will cover the £50 deposits for 50 candidates. The remarks of Cardinal Hume are expected to give the organisation's fundraising activities a fillip.

The Pro-Life Alliance has indicated that it will challenge in the constituencies of up to eight Cabinet ministers, including the Chancellor, the Health Secretary and the Home Secretary.

Major launches campaign offensive

BY ANDREW PIERCE

A GENERAL election campaign set to be one of the longest in history was launched yesterday by John Major. He declared that Britain faced the stark choice of stability and prosperity under the Tories or a leap into the unknown with Labour.

In a clear indication that the election campaign will revolve around the economy, Mr Major set out pledges on tax, prices, mortgages and jobs, and claimed that they would win the Tories a fourth successive election.

But in an immediate resumption of hostilities John Prescott, the Deputy Labour leader, accused the Prime Minister of having launched a "Get Blair" campaign in his new year message.

Mr Major, in his letter to Conservative associations, said that the Tories had cut the basic rate of tax from 33 pence to 23 pence and were committed to cutting it to 20 pence. They were pledged to keep inflation under control, keep mortgages down, create more jobs, and to opposing a federal Europe. Mr Major, in an attempt to gain credit for the return of the "feel-good" factor, insisted it was not only the Government which had achieved the economic turnaround.

"I know how hard the British people have had to work to make life better in this country," he said. "As a result, we have made real gains — more spending money, more jobs and record investment. I know too how easy it would be to lose these hard-won gains."

Mr Prescott said: "This is the start of the £7 million 'Get Blair' offensive... financed by sleazy foreign backers whose identities are being kept secret."

Tories face poll setback on cash for questions

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR has been told that the potentially explosive report into the Commons "cash for questions" inquiry, which has been dogged by delays, could be published only weeks before the general election.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, who is conducting the investigation, had planned to write the report over Christmas. But so far he has not interviewed any leading witnesses.

The report into allegations that Ian Greer, the lobbyist, paid MPs for raising Commons questions was due at the end of next month. It is now facing a delay of up to eight weeks.

Ministers are becoming increasingly alarmed about the electoral implications. The controversy took a new twist yesterday when it emerged that David Willets, who resigned as Paymaster General after being accused of misleading an all-party committee over his part in the affair, is to be offered a role at Conservative Central Office in the run-up to the election.

Mr Willets, MP for Havant, has not made up his mind on whether to accept the unpaid duties. He has had several offers of highly paid work in the City of London. He is understood to be in talks with Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank.

A senior Tory party official said last night: "We want him back. He is highly regarded

and much missed. He has a decisive contribution to make and earned great honour for resigning quickly."

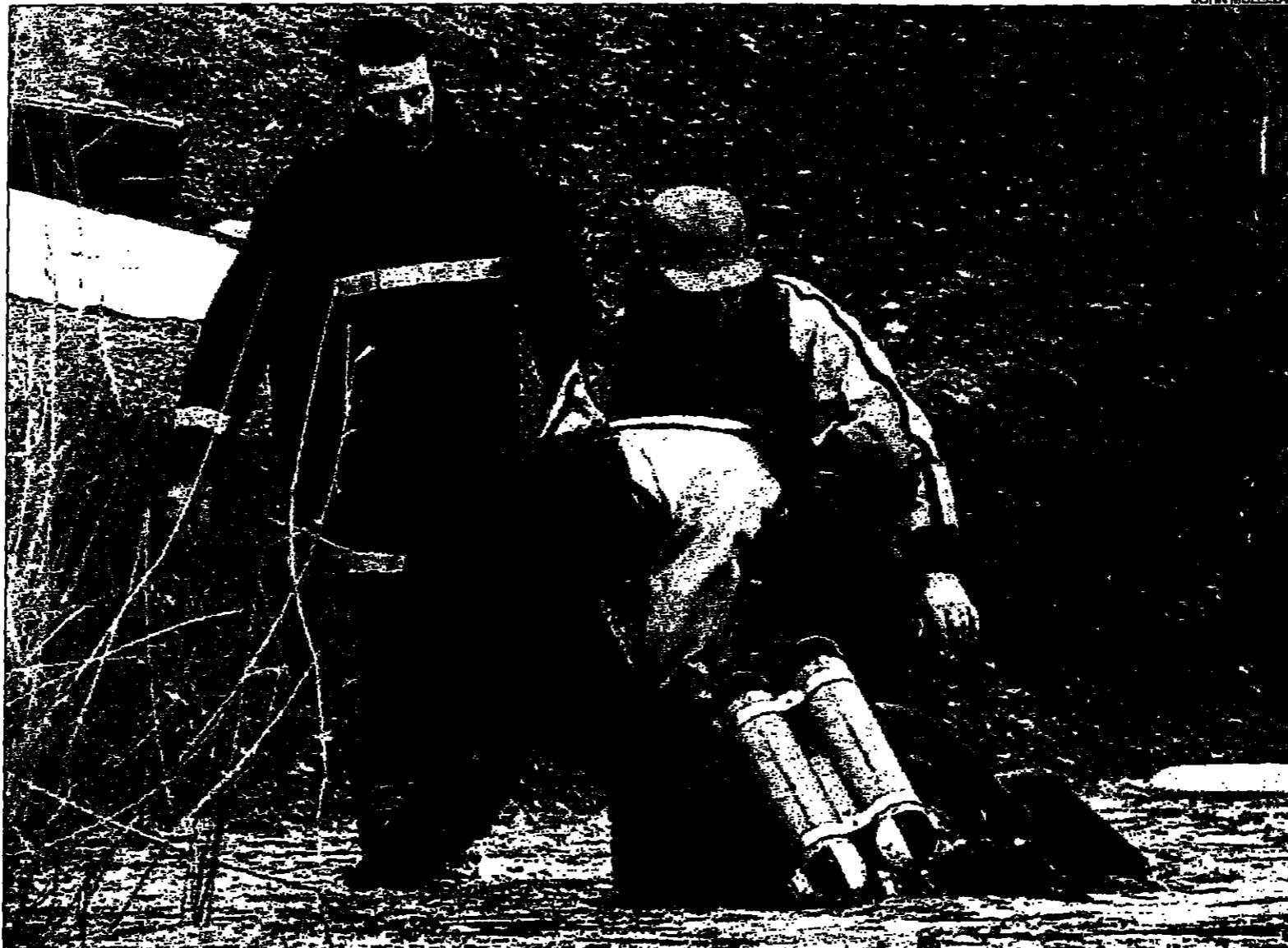
One option would be to make Mr Willets an unpaid vice-chairman, but the Prime Minister is wary of giving him such a formal role after he was so heavily criticised by the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges, which has a Tory majority.

Many senior Tories believe that Mr Willets will be lured by the prospect of a City salary but will combine those duties with part-time work for Central Office on election strategy.

But the more pressing issue for the Tory high command is the delay in Sir Gordon's inquiry. Neil Hamilton, who resigned as a trade minister over the "cash for questions" allegations, and Mr Greer have lodged the relevant paperwork with Sir Gordon. Mr Hamilton and Mr Greer, who dropped a libel case against *The Guardian*, which printed the allegations, face cross-examination in private by a Treasury solicitor. No date has been fixed.

Both men are anxious for the inquiry, which was set up in October, to proceed without any further hold-up.

Sir Gordon has been constrained by resources and has complained that he has not even got adequate photo-copying machinery. He is intent on interviewing some of the 25 MPs who received money for their general election fighting funds from Mr Greer.



Police divers recovering the body of William Willis from the frozen lake at Belhus Park, Aveye, near Grays in Essex yesterday.

Couple die in lake attempting to rescue dog

Continued from page 1

died in West Yorkshire when she chased a dog on to a frozen lake.

Mr Cable said: "At this time of year you can almost write the script. It may sound hard-hearted but if your dog falls through the ice you should leave it. They are generally able to get out."

His team of 30 men also used a thermal imaging camera to try to find the bodies. Axes and grappling hooks were used to smash the ice and probe for the missing couple. He estimated

that the ice was more than an inch thick on parts of the lake.

Sergeant Nigel Dermott, diving officer for Essex Police, said: "In those conditions visibility is zero and you work entirely by feel."

"The longest I have known anyone to survive under water is 45 minutes. The woman had been under there for something like an hour and a half. Although there was a heart beat after she came out and you are always hopeful, you have to be realistic."

After treatment at Oldchurch Hospital, Romford, the condition of the two passers-by who attempted to rescue the victims was said to be much improved.

Neighbours of Mr and Mrs Willis, who lived within a ten-minute drive of the park, spoke of their shock. The dead man was semi-retired and his wife worked as a legal secretary in the City. They hoped to retire to Sussex in the near future, said Kenneth Gill, 72, a neighbour.

The couple's dog, aged between two

and three years, was taken to a nearby kennels where it was said to be in excellent condition.

There have been some remarkable cases of people surviving sub-zero temperatures for long periods which have stopped their hearts. The cold has the effect of closing down most body systems which can be restarted by gentle warming. The longest recorded period in which a person's heart had stopped before being revived is three hours and 40 minutes.

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Death toll from E.coli outbreak reaches 16

A 91-year-old woman has died after being infected by the *E.coli* bacterium in Scotland, bringing the death toll to 16. Lanarkshire Health Board said the woman died in Monklands Hospital, Airdrie, yesterday. The toll is the largest number of deaths in a single outbreak of *E.coli* food-poisoning since 19 patients died in a Canadian nursing home in 1985. A health board spokesman said the woman, who has not been named, had been infected by *E.coli* 0157 though products purchased from John M. Barr and Son, a butcher's shop in Wishaw, Strathclyde. There are still 318 people showing symptoms of the infection.

Young Scots back independence

More than half of young Scots support independence according to a poll in Scotland on Sunday. Fifty-two per cent of those between 18 and 25 said their best prospects lay in an independent Scotland, with a further 31 per cent backing a devolved parliament. If there were a referendum, 70 per cent would vote for a devolved parliament.

Bronze Age artefacts unearthed

The foundations of a Bronze Age settlement have been found during digging work for an hotel at Templepatrick, Co Antrim. Archaeologists have uncovered three sites but believe there were six homes in the area from an ancient farming community. Pottery, flint implements, arrowheads and a quern for grinding wheat have been unearthed.

Lights out! jet scare investigated

British Airways is to investigate a pilot's claims that a 747's mid-air near-miss with another jumbo over the former Soviet republic of Tajikistan was caused by a company policy to save on light bulbs by having landing lights switched off above 10,000ft. BA said the recommendation was made because the lights could dazzle pilots in cloud.

Scotland Yard aids Cuba drug war

Two Scotland Yard officers are to travel to Cuba next month to help Fidel Castro's Government to combat cocaine smuggling from Venezuela and Colombia. It follows a successful initiative involving Customs and Excise staff and is expected to lead to Cuban police officers receiving training in Britain.

Surfing dog surfaces

The stolen surfing dog has been found. Max vanished on Christmas Eve after being tied to railings outside a shop in Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire. His owner, Peter Bounds, 47, was reunited with the mongrel that he taught to surf after a woman was seen walking Max in the town centre. She is assisting police inquiries.

Lawyers

Continued from page 1
string of court rulings and counter-rulings up to the Court of Appeal in individual cases over the past two years, but this is the first case involving a large number of firms.

Earlier this month, the High Court held that solicitors did have a duty to inform mortgage companies about bad-risk clients. In that case, the borrowers were £4,000 behind with their mortgage repayments when they took out a £91,000 loan with the National Home Loans Corporation. When they defaulted on their payments, the corporation was unable to recover its losses because of the fall in property prices. Awarding £80,000 damages against the solicitors, the Judge Graeme Hamilton QC said the loss was caused by the corporation "embarking upon a course of action upon which it would not have embarked had it been given the correct information. The duty in this case is to supply information."

In April, in another case brought by the Bristol & West against 13 firms of solicitors, Mr Justice Chasidow ruled that when a solicitor acted for both buyer and lender, he held the money in trust for the lender. The solicitor was in breach of trust, the judge said, if he parted with the money having failed to disclose relevant facts to the lender — but the lender would have to show that his loss would not otherwise have occurred.

Two years ago, the Law Society recommended that solicitors should no longer be able to act for borrowers and lenders. But the proposals were decisively rejected in a consultation of the profession and the society is now drafting new standard mortgage procedures to make solicitors' duties clearer.

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Ayckbourn falls out with resort that can't spend a penny

By ALAN HAMILTON

THAT devoted old couple, the playwright Alan Ayckbourn and the sedate old town of Scarborough, have fallen out after a relationship lasting 40 years.

The dispute, as ever, is over money. A theatre opened by Ayckbourn in the Yorkshire resort in April is in such dire financial straits that it has asked the local council for an extra £50,000 a year for five years to stay in business. The council, faced with £750,000 of spending cuts, says that if it funds the theatre it will have to close the town's 22 public lavatories.

Ayckbourn, who has had a love affair with Scarborough since getting his first job as an assistant stage manager there in the 1950s, and who has a house in the town, has turned against his adopted home after a barrage of criticism in the local press from council tax-payers who appear to prefer the convenience of lavatories to the culture of theatre.

The Stephen Joseph Theatre, named after Ayckbourn's theatrical mentor, opened in a former cinema in April at a cost of £5.2 million, of which £400,000 came from Ayckbourn, £1.5 million from a



Ayckbourn: given his first job in Scarborough

National Lottery grant and much of the rest from local donations. In the eight months since it opened, the theatre's operating losses have reached £825,000.

A waspish Ayckbourn said yesterday: "Scarborough cannot go around calling itself the Queen of the Watering Places when the North Sea is so polluted. If you happen to be a teetotaller in this town, God help you, because there is little else to do apart from get drunk and buy shoes. The reasons for coming here are getting less and less." All Ayckbourn



The Stephen Joseph Theatre has run up losses of £825,000 in the eight months since it opened

productions are traditionally staged first in Scarborough before transferring to the West End, allowing audiences to see shows at a fraction of London prices.

The theatre is named after the son of the publisher Michael Joseph and the actress Hermione Gingold, a director who introduced theatre in the round to Scarborough and who, before his death in 1967, was a major influence on Ayckbourn.

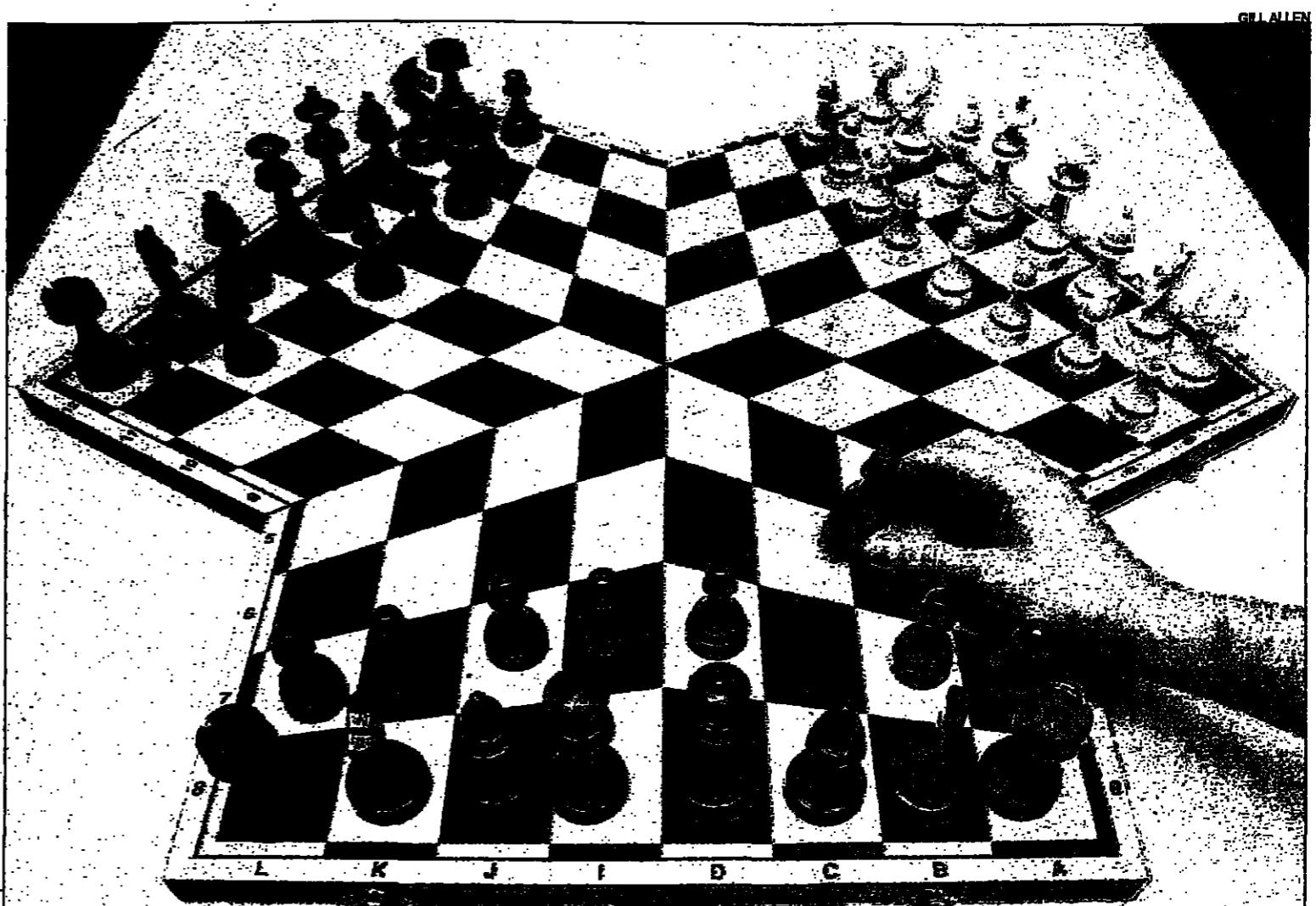
Local taxpayers, informed of the choice facing the council on funding, have filled the letters columns of local newspapers. "Why is the theatre treated differently? How will people visiting our town feel when they find there are no public toilets for their use?" one wrote.

Councillors have not yet made a final decision on whether to bail out the theatre which, now that the Floral Hall has closed and the Scarborough Opera House has burnt down, is one of the town's few remaining tourist magnets.

Dorothy Clegg, a member of the Labour-controlled council, said yesterday: "Grand gestures are all very well, but it is basic housekeeping which has to be observed in a time of economies. I want to see what the theatre is going to do; we did ask for accounts and a business plan two months ago in October, but we have not yet had them."

Scarborough, which claims to have pioneered the concept of a seaside resort in Victorian times, has had a difficult year. In June it offered to foot the £20,000 hotel bill for the Bulgarian football team competing in the Euro '96 tournament to stay near by at Ravenscar; the team declared themselves so bored that they moved out and paid £108 per head per night for rooms in faraway but more exciting Stockton-on-Tees.

Also, government auditors found that Scarborough council spent less per head of population on sports facilities than any other resort in North Yorkshire, despite being one of the county's busiest tourist areas.



A board of 96 squares is the battleground for three sets of the usual pieces. A player reaching the centre can attack either or both opponents

Snowbound stalemate was the opening move for invention of three-way chess

By ALAN HAMILTON

THREE'S a crowd when they are snowbound in a Scottish house for five weeks with only a chess set for amusement. There will always be someone left out as the two others pore over their pieces for hours on end.

Stranded with two friends at his home at Dunkeld, Perthshire, Khaia Rasmussen, a joiner and chess player, set about inventing a version of the game that could be played by three people simultaneously. Eleven years and £40,000 worth of investment later, three-way chess is about to be launched by a Brighton-based games company.

The board consists of three pentagons of 96 black and white squares, compared to the normal 64. Each player has the usual 16 pieces, which are black, white and red. Checkmate

is the object and a player reaching the centre of the board can choose to attack either or both opponents. The game, which has been tested by players from schoolchildren to grandmasters all over Europe, is claimed to increase excitement and to reduce the likelihood of a match ending in stalemate.

George Barrett, managing director of the company marketing the game, said yesterday that test marketing had shown that children grasped the concept of the game more quickly than adults. Top players found that it helped them to sharpen up for important matches.

"They have to think more quickly and a lot of the textbook on pre-planned moves and defences has to be thrown out of the window."

Interest in the game is said to be

ries, all of which are well acquainted with the risk of being cut off by blizzards for long periods with not much to do except to trap beavers, carve cuckoo clocks or consume dangerous amounts of vodka.

The makers hope eventually for a substantial market in Russia, a country with long experience of severe weather and chess. But even in those countries where winter diversions are at a premium, chess for three has never quite caught on.

Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, pointed out yesterday that the first game of three-way chess had been invented by Captain Philip Marinelli in 1722 and attracted among its enthusiasts Prince Eugene of Savoy, who fought with the Duke of Marlborough at the Battle of Blenheim. The Marinelli board had 136 squares. There have been many versions of three-person

chess since, including one using a hexagonal board invented by Zigmund Wellisch in 1912.

Mr Keene said: "Traditional chess is a very good game; you would need something pretty brilliant to replace it. Besides, there is something fundamental about a contest between two people."

Many variations of chess have been marketed, including a Christmas version launched in 1988, in which each player has three kings. Those frightened by the intellectual challenge of the latest version may take comfort from the fact that the 96-square, three-way board can also be used for a version of draughts, should you be held up in a blizzard with two companions who think the Sicilian defence is something to do with bribing judges in Palermo.

Chess, page 30

Trauma silences raped 9-year-old

By DANIEL McGROarty

A GIRL aged nine who was raped with her mother on Boxing Day was last night still too traumatised to tell police about her ordeal.

The girl's mother, 53, who was the first to be assaulted by the intruder who broke into their bedroom, has told police that both she and her daughter were threatened with a knife. Detective Chief Inspector Heather Valentine, the detective leading the hunt, described the attack as "one of the most appalling assaults I have ever heard of".

The rapist, who held the weapon against the girl's throat while raping her, is believed to have taken the knife from the kitchen of the flat where the pair were spending Christmas with relatives in Northolt, west London.

The attacker threatened to kill them if they screamed and the distraught woman was forced to watch while he raped her daughter. After their third minute ordeal he demanded money and then calmly emptied the woman's purse on the bed and took some cash before escaping.

Detective Chief Inspector Valentine said: "This is an horrendous attack on two totally innocent people. For a mother and daughter to be both attacked and for both to witness the attacks on each other is appalling.

"There is no doubt they feared for their lives. This man said he would kill them. They are being cared for by specially-trained women police officers. The little girl is absolutely traumatised and it is imperative we catch this man".

The relatives they were staying with had gone out when the intruder broke in through a patio door and attacked them. Police searched the area within minutes but could find no trace of him. The white man has blonde hair, bobbed to his ears and shaved at the neck, and is slim and clean-shaven, with chiseled features. He was wearing a distinctive blue sweatshirt with the letters USA in red on the chest. He had jeans and a black bomber jacket with orange or yellow lining as well as white, possibly new, trainers.

regular prayer meeting was sabotaged by the calling of the public meeting on the same night. We felt we couldn't go on after the meeting decided they had lost confidence in us. We have been without a vicar for 20 months and after what has happened I fear a lot of people will not worship at Colkirk again."

Worshippers at 14th-century St Mary's, Colkirk, Norfolk, were shut out after the church council resigned after a vote of no confidence by villagers. In

Church locks out feuding villagers

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

PARTHONERS were locked out of church yesterday in the latest twist to a dispute over the ordination of women that has led to the cancellation of Christmas services.

Worshippers at 14th-century St Mary's, Colkirk, Norfolk, were shut out after the church council resigned after a vote of no confidence by villagers. In the summer the council forced the incoming vicar, the Rev David Burrell, 39, to resign when members discovered he supported the ordination of women. They had threatened to boycott services. The incident was believed to be the first of its kind in the Church of England.

Since then the village has been divided. Diana Beck, vice-chair of the church council, and seven colleagues, resigned after the vote of no confidence in the council was passed at a public meeting.

Mrs Beck said: "This nonsense has been dragging on for months and it has been very unpleasant. We are all very unhappy and upset. Our churchwarden has been the subject of personal attacks in the parish magazine and our

regular prayer meeting was sabotaged by the calling of the public meeting on the same night. We felt we couldn't go on after the meeting decided they had lost confidence in us. We have been without a vicar for 20 months and after what has happened I fear a lot of people will not worship at Colkirk again."

There were complaints from villagers at the public meeting that they could not attend a non-Eucharist service at St Mary's. Janet Stangroom, from the neighbouring parish of Whisstock, said: "Some people felt that the High Church tone was too rich for them. A lot of the people who wanted to go were not confirmed and could not take Communion. It was felt that the church council was not fairly representing the views of the majority of the parish."

The Rev Brian Cole, the Rural Dean who is looking after Colkirk until a new vicar is found, said: "We hope to resume services again at Colkirk in the new year but they will be under the jurisdiction of myself and the archdeacon."

ANOTHER PRESS AD



for RDS radio.



HONDA

Teenagers want to give up smoking

THE most popular new year resolution among teenagers is to give up smoking, according to a poll published yesterday. Others intend to stop drinking.

Parents disturbed that their children have taken up the habits in the first place may be cheered that there were also resolutions by the 14-to 18-year-olds to do better in examinations, to work harder and to save money.

While many of the 2,000 teenagers polled by NatWest bank appeared to spend money on tobacco and alcohol, the budgets of most them went on traditional pursuits. CDs, tapes, clothes, magazines, sweets and the cinema all accounted for more of their spending.

Franco Zazzera of NatWest said: "I don't think it is all bad news and actually proves most teenagers are not as

BOYS	GIRLS
1 Stop smoking	1 Save money
2 Save money	2 Stop smoking
3 Work harder	3 Stop biting nails
4 Do well in exams	4 Work harder
5 Waste less money	5 Do better at school
6 Do better at school	6 Eat less
- Respect people more	7 Waste less money
8 Stop biting nails	8 Be more tidy
9 Stop drinking	9 Do well in exams
10 Eat less	10 Get a job

wild as we think. The resolution to save money was high up on the list for boys and top of the list for girls.

Teenagers come in for a lot of flak over booze and drugs and the like, but that is really a manifestation of the minority. Most are quite down-to-earth. They save their pocket money or wages from part-time jobs.

Heroes were familiar too:

for boys they were Arnold Schwarzenegger and Pamela Anderson on the screen and Eric Cantona and Alan Shearer on the pitch. For girls, they were Brad Pitt and Keanu Reeves at the cinema and Linford Christie and Ryan Giggs in the sporting arena.

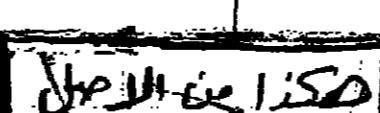
Both sexes gave Oasis as their favourite band; the second choice among boys was

the Spice Girls and for girls it was Peter Andre.

□ Applying political correctness to children's books has been undermined by the readers themselves. Surrey University's Roehampton Institute, which questioned 9,000 children, found they did not feel it important to see images of themselves in literature.

Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton were the top two authors for children aged seven to 16. Horror was the most popular genre for adolescents, but romance was a turn-off for girls of all ages. Children aged four to seven related most in their choice of reading to television characters.

More than eight out of ten boys and girls believed that reading helped them to understand more about their changing bodies.



Royal Collection to exhibit manuscript made for Emperor who built the Taj Mahal

Mogul masterpiece on show for first time in 200 years

BY DALYA ALBERG, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A 17TH-CENTURY Mogul manuscript presented to George III in 1797 is to be exhibited in public for the first time.

The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace will display the Padshahnama manuscript — described as "an historical testament to one of the greatest eras of cultural achievement in the history of India" — in March. It will form one of four exhibitions planned for next year, reflecting a decision approved by the Queen that the Royal Collection should be more active.

Other exhibitions for next year include 18th-century views of Windsor in watercolours by Thomas and Paul Sandby (the Royal Collection has the world's largest collection of their watercolours and drawings); portrait miniatures by Holbein and Hilliard; and photographs of Queen Victoria and her relatives. Exhibitions for 1998 include "Michelangelo and his Influence". Hugh Roberts, director



George III: he received the manuscript in 1797

of the Royal Collection, said that, apart from 30,000 drawings which are too delicate to be on permanent view, most holdings were on display. He rejected suggestions that treasures were often hidden from the public. "It is infuriating to read that the collection is not visible. It is

highly visible." The collection, seen by more than five million people a year, is spread primarily between Hampton Court, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Buckingham Palace and Windsor.

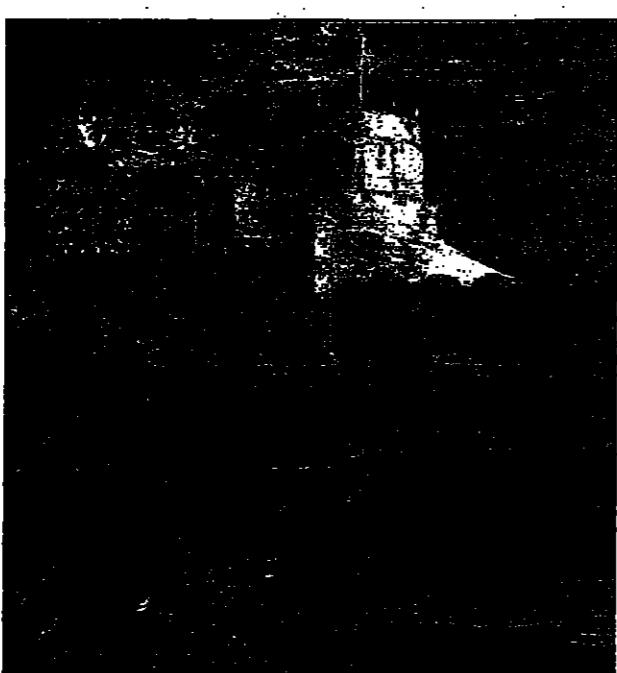
George III received the Padshahnama — meaning The Chronicle of the King of the World — through Lord Teignmouth, Governor-General of India, from the Nawab of Lucknow. Theresa-Mary Morton, of the Royal Collection, said: "It has remained one of the great treasures of the Royal Collection."

Until recently, when it required some minor conservation, it had been impossible to exhibit it because its 293 folios were bound together. Following displays in London and in India for the fifth anniversary of independence, it will be rebound. Ms Morton said that this was probably the only time in its history that it could be shown.

The Padshahnama, which still retains the original silk cloth in which it was presented to George III, is as valuable to historians as to art scholars. Its text — with 44 illustrations including a court scene, a procession and a hunt — traces the first ten years of the reign of Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal for his favourite wife and who was the wealthiest and most powerful of the Mogul Emperors from the 16th to 18th centuries.

Ms Morton said that Shah Jahan insisted that major events associated with his reign be recorded and, in 1639, he commissioned Abdur-Hamid Lahawri to create a lavish historical record. Only one copy is known to have been made during his lifetime and the illustrations came from the greatest artists of the imperial workshop.

Shah Jahan's reign witnessed heights of technical perfection that were never surpassed, said Ms Morton, who described the Padshahnama's realism and attention to detail as breathtaking.



One of the 18th-century watercolours of Windsor Castle by Paul Sandby, due to be exhibited in 1997



A page from the Padshahnama depicting a delivery of presents for the wedding of Prince Dara Shikoh

Prince puts his faith in Battersea plan for spiritual power station

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince of Wales is supporting a plan to build a 10,000-seat ecumenical church to celebrate the millennium. During the past year he has complained that schemes to celebrate the new century were insufficiently spiritual.

The project, using an empty site next to Battersea power station in central London, is still at the drawing-board stage and will need £50 million from the National Lottery Millennium Fund. Promoters of the scheme, including the merchant bankers Warburg, have proposed a church, religious conference centre and hotel open to Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Nonconformists and other denominations. The Prince has agreed that his Projects Office, an offshoot of his Institute of Architecture, should advise on design.

The ecumenical message was reinforced yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has recently returned from a meeting with the Pope in Rome. Dr George Carey told GMTV: "Unity is essential for the mission of the Church and I long for unity."

not only with Rome but with all Christian denominations. We know that unreconciled Christianity gets in the way of the mission of the Church, and we've got to do it. Existing things have happened in our day — Christian groups are coming together more closely than they have ever done."

Dr Carey urged the Church to pay more attention to youth culture. "Sometimes older people are secretly afraid of young people, and they think young people are very surprised by that."

The project to create a

religious community centre by the Thames next to a half-demolished power station, with a professed emphasis on the young, is no more or less ambitious a scheme than many others proposed for the millennium, which have the common feature of an extremely short time in which they can be built.

But the Prince is keen to redress his balance of interests in favour of the Christian Church after his well-publicised and long-standing stance in favour of a greater understanding of Islam. Doc-

uments leaked from St James' Palace last week indicate that he will pay more attention in public engagements to the Church of England, of which he is a practising member and of which one day he will be titular head in Britain.

His advisers, anxious to promote a positive image of the heir to the throne now that his divorce is out of the way, are aware that the Prince's desire for better relations with Islam, although widely praised, are in danger of upsetting traditionalist British opinion.

A Palace source said yesterday: "The Prince is, and always has been, a practising Anglican, although he has always been in favour of a greater understanding of other religions represented in Britain. But as he moves towards his eventual role as monarch, it is sensible that he be seen to be taking a closer interest in the traditional religion of the country."



The former Battersea power station: a 10,000-seat ecumenical church is planned for the site next door

William Rees-Mogg, page 14
Leading article and Letters, page 15

Royal trust given £2.5m in lottery cash to help disadvantaged youth

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE Prince of Wales's charity for young people, The Prince's Trust, is to receive more than £2.5 million of National Lottery money to distribute to about 2,500 disadvantaged youngsters.

The grant, to be announced today by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, is part of £10 million for the Millennium Commission's Awards Scheme, which is designed to channel lottery cash to individuals rather than building projects, organisations, groups or charities. The money will be distributed on behalf of the commission by eight "reward partners", existing charities with a proven track record of making grants to individuals.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers and the mental health charity MIND are expected to be named today as partners, along with others and the Prince's Trust. News of the grant is

expected to provide a much-needed public relations victory for the Millennium Commission.

Both it and the Government are hoping that the Millennium Awards, which are meant to help individuals to fulfil their personal aspirations, will bring a popular touch back to the process of distributing lottery money and will restore the credibility of the commission as a distributor of largesse.

There is a widespread feeling in Westminster that the lottery has been one of the biggest missed PR opportunities of the current administration, with most people thinking the money is spent on major building projects. "It is often the flagships capital projects that get the headlines but it is actually individuals that make a difference to the community," a commission source said.

Projects undertaken by individuals using lottery money must have a millennium theme, such as preserving the

environment for future generations, and must also benefit the community. The Prince's Trust is expected to aim its 2,500 awards at disadvantaged young people who might not normally be identified as worthy recipients of public funds. The grants will help individuals to learn practical skills such as carpentry.

The British Trust for Conservation Volunteers, which usually helps to fund projects such as path-clearing over public land, will make 1,000 grants to help individuals to develop leadership skills. MIND will make 500 awards to individuals or small groups involved in working to take away the stigma surrounding mental illness.

The commission has set aside £20 million a year over five years to give to Millennium Awards to individuals. In October it announced £8.6 million in grants to 3,000 people, distributed through six charities. A new round of funding will open next month.

Pupils get credit for good behaviour

BY PAUL WILKINSON

SCHOOLCHILDREN are being rewarded for good behaviour in class with a credit card to spend on burgers, clothes and football matches.

Staff at the Sir Henry Cooper School in Hull say their pioneering reward scheme has already produced a marked improvement in the children's performance and attitude. Pupils are awarded points for good attendance, punctuality, classwork, sporting achievements and extra activities. When they reach 25 points they are given a card which is accepted at a variety of places in the city where they receive either a discount or free entry. Supporters of the scheme include McDonald's, Hull City Football Club, bowling alleys, ice rinks, cinemas and clothes shops.

Mick Taylor, head of English at the 900-pupil comprehensive who helped to devise the scheme, said: "A lot of teachers have noticed a big improvement in attendance, especially among the borderline students. The credit scheme is a real incentive because it allows them to do things they like more cheaply."

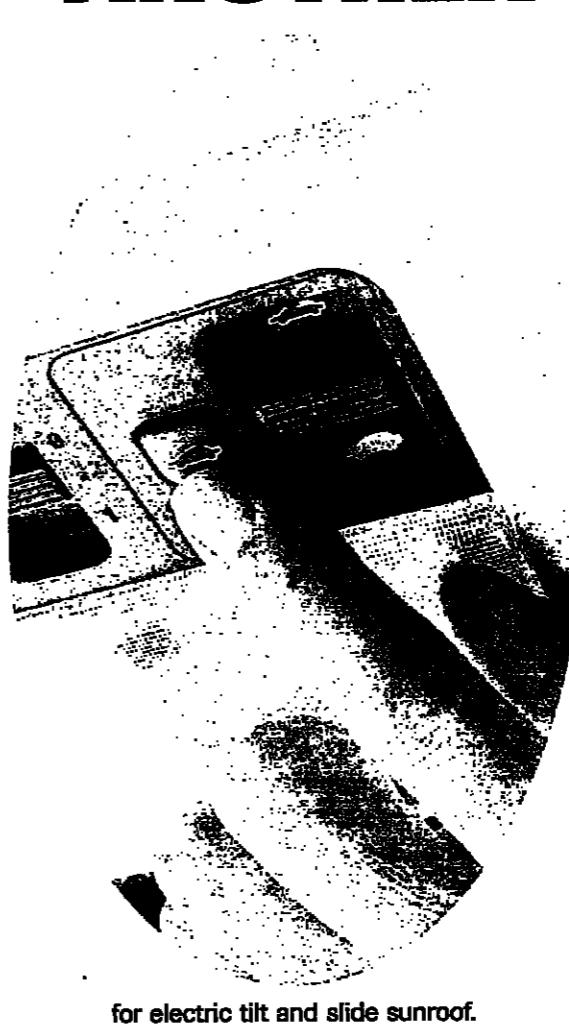
So far 160 pupils have joined the scheme, which was launched at the start of the Christmas term. Each carries a card which staff sign when the pupil has reached certain targets.

Fifteen organisations have agreed to accept the smart card, but more are to join soon. The cards bear the school logo, a picture and signature of the cardholder and the year head's signature.

Fiona Holland, a senior teacher who worked on the scheme, said: "The cards have given motivation for children who were not fulfilling all the criteria. Those who get on with their work and don't demand our attention all the time are rewarded for their efforts."

Gemma Mason and Emily Heppell-Smith, both 11, use their cards at McDonald's. Emily said: "We work harder at school to get the points. I am always counting how many points I need to get my card." Gemma said: "The teachers have come up with a good plan because we get something we enjoy for our work."

AND ANOTHER



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HONDA

Suicide man is feared to have burnt wife's body

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

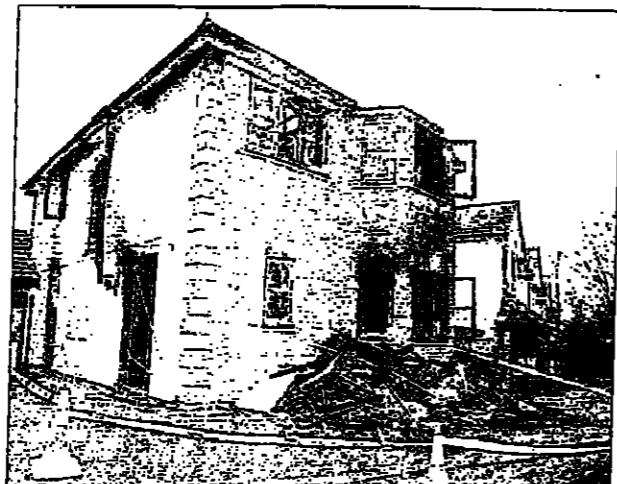
A BUSINESSMAN who committed suicide after burning down his house may have incinerated his wife's body.

Police searching the farm near Tiverton, Devon, which Derek Levon, 61, had bought with his terminally-ill wife Pauline found an area of scorched earth 200 yards from the barn where the computer firm director shot himself on Friday in front of officers who had tried to persuade him to hand over the shotgun. The couple's other house, ten miles away in the village of Silverton, was destroyed by fire nine hours before Mr Levon shot himself.

The police were yesterday awaiting the results of an analysis of the contents of a tin found in the boot of Mr Levon's car which they fear are his wife's ashes. Mrs Levon has not been seen for more than a week.

Forensic tests are to be carried out on the burnt piece of grazing land to see if Mrs Levon, who had cancer, was cremated there.

The couple's two daughters Alison and Elaine, who are



The Levons' house in Silverton, Devon, which was destroyed by fire before Mr Levon killed himself

both married and live in Cyprus, have now been traced. One of them is returning to Devon to try to help solve the mystery. Police said that Mr Levon had posted them a note which stated that he and his wife intended to commit suicide.

However, Detective Superintendent John Smith, who is leading the inquiry, said: 'The suicide note was only signed

by Mr Levon although it did refer to an intention for them both to take their own lives. It is a one-page note and the only hint it gives as to motive are the words "various reasons". There is no mention of his wife's cancer.'

'We are hoping to take full statements from the officers who spoke to Mr Levon before he killed himself. He indicated his wife may be in the car. We

are searching the farm at the moment to find out if the body was cremated there and we have found a burned area in a field out there which we are looking at forensically.'

When she was last seen, on December 21, Mrs Levon, who was known as Polly, told friends and shopkeepers that she and her husband were hoping to book a flight so that they could spend Christmas with their family in Cyprus.

'We don't think they were able to get to Cyprus and the last sighting we have of Mr Levon was at 8.30pm on Boxing Day by a neighbour who visited him, who did not see Mrs Levon.'

Mr Smith added that he was baffled by Mr Levon's decision to burn the house down. 'Our priority now is to establish the identity of the human remains found in the car. We are still hoping to locate Mrs Levon but I have my doubts.'

'We have no indication that this tragedy was expected by anyone. The note looks quite well-planned and methodical. He was determined he was going to commit suicide and told us where he could be found.'



Derek Levon, who shot himself dead, with his wife Pauline, who was terminally ill with cancer



Chimps safe in a refuge away from poachers, labs and loggers

By DANIEL McGRORY

THE footfall on the grass was

enough to send the chimpanzee screeching for the nearest cover. The visitor to the chimp sanctuary intended no harm, but the frightened creature clung trembling to a tree trunk remembering that its last encounter with a stranger was a poacher who shot and skinned its mother.

The infant chimpanzee is safe now at the Jane Goodall Institute, corralled along with 53 other orphans at the Tchimpouanga Sanctuary, sponsored by the charity Tusk Force, in the Congo, out of range of the rifles but still terrified of human contact. At the institute, named after a British chimp expert, the chimpanzees are schooled into how to behave in the wild, while teams of anti-poaching rangers patrol to deter the hunters who are never far away.

It is estimated that fewer than 200,000 chimps now survive in the wild and international regulations supposed to protect them are so poorly policed as to be meaningless. They have little chance to replenish their number because they are slow breeders and usually do not bring more than two offspring to full maturity.

The destruction of Africa's forests by the logging trade has resulted not only in the wanton and large-scale destruction of the habitat, but the roads carved through these areas by the timber companies assist the poachers who hunt primates for bush meat and export. There is abundant evidence that logging firms connive in the bush meat trade and many are owned or financed by European companies. Their vehicles are used to ferry poachers into the forests and then carry the meat because most of the workers rely on it as their only source of nutrition.

A recent investigation found bush meat openly and widely on sale throughout Central Africa. In one district of Cameroon an estimated 800 gorillas are killed annually, while the ethnic conflicts in Burundi and Rwanda have

led to the creatures being hunted as food. This year, in an effort to foster what he called a spirit of enterprise, the President of the Congo issued a public statement encouraging children to take up hunting during their school holidays.

There is also a particular type of ammunition now produced, the chevrotine, which is a cartridge specifically developed for hunting animals such as the gorilla. It contains nine lead balls which afford the hunter the maximum chance of felling a creature in one go.

Poachers who prey on the chimpanzees slaughter the mothers for meat and capture the young for pets or the burgeoning demand from laboratories. The international outcry against monkeys being used for laboratory experiments or vivisection has diminished in recent years and there is abundant evidence that the numbers of creatures captured for such uses is again increasing.

This week the Russians launched two macaque monkeys into space in a joint operation with the French to study the effects of weightlessness, evoking memories of the early days of space exploration which relied entirely on animal research.



Fewer than 200,000 chimps survive in wild

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Killer targets surviving Beatles

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

THE man who killed John Lennon was quoted yesterday as threatening the lives of the three remaining Beatles, and has reportedly tattooed his warning on his arm.

Mark David Chapman, who is serving 20 years to life for shooting Lennon in New York in 1980, told a fellow inmate: "The Fab Four is keeping me down. I'm going to kill them all."

The Star supermarket tabloid said that Chapman, eligible for parole in four years, had a tattoo on his right bicep to remind him of his plans. It has the words "John Lennon" and "Lonely", two red hearts, a black gun and the initials F.F.Y.R.N. — "Fab Four You R Next".

The unidentified inmate, who reportedly spent 100 days with Chapman in the maximum security wing of Attica prison, told the magazine that the murderer is again haunted by the "voices" he claimed drove him to shoot Lennon in New York.

"I popped a cap on him to put him out of his misery and free me," Chapman was quoted as saying. "Now my life's over and they're imprisoning me again, the three remaining Beatles. When I get out, I'm going to free myself again."

He has decorated his cell with Beatles photographs and a picture of Lennon in the morgue. He is apparently enraged that Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr are making money by using old Lennon vocal tracks to make new recordings.

The inmate said when Chapman talks of revenge, "you'd think he was ordering a chocolate milkshake".



Chapman: tattoo on his arm

Clinton acts to prevent medical use for 'pot'

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

DEFYING the voters' will, President Clinton has approved a plan to threaten doctors with the loss of their licences, and even prosecution, if they prescribe marijuana for seriously ill patients in Arizona and California.

Letters will be sent to every doctor in the two states warning that marijuana remains an illegal narcotic under federal laws and threatening to revoke their powers to dispense drugs if they recommend or prescribe it.

In addition, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will, if necessary, use surveillance and informers to track down "Dr Feelgood" physicians who make a practice of recommending the drug to many patients. In those cases, prosecution would be a strong option, officials said.

Balloons proposingly approving the medical use of marijuana were passed by comfortable margins in both states in last month's election — with the support of doctors, nurses, consumer groups and liberal politicians. Many chronically ill patients testified to the media that their suffering had been eased by smoking "pot".

California's measure allowing marijuana under the direction of a doctor for the treatment of Aids, cancer, arthritis, chronic pain and other illnesses was passed by 56 per cent to 44 per cent.

Voters in Arizona, normally considered conservative, supported their state's initiative, allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana as an anti-nausea agent or painkiller, for the seriously ill by 65 per cent to 35 per cent. That state also included other drugs such as heroin and LSD for pain relief.

Balot initiatives are powerful weapons in the hands of voters and have the force of law unless overturned by the courts. In the late 1970s, California's historic Proposition 13

New York curbs its murder rate

New York: Police here are patrolling trouble-spots in a year's end effort to keep the city's annual murder rate under 1,000 for the first time since 1968 (James Bone writes). Extra officers have been assigned to nightclubs and social workers have increased supervision of homes prone to domestic violence.

mer prosecutor who is the city's first Republican Mayor in a generation.

The fall has been particularly pronounced for random killings like those committed during muggings or traffic disputes. Only one in five murder victims was killed by a stranger, compared with twice that number in 1993.

Peru rebels give up demand for release of jailed comrades

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN LIMA

LEFT-WING Peruvian rebels freed another 20 hostages from the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima at the weekend as they raised hopes that they are softening their demands. Eighty-three people remain captive.

In a statement after releasing the hostages, the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels dropped their central demand for the release of more than 450 of their imprisoned comrades. Their communiqué read out by one of the released hostages, only said that they wanted to talk about "improved prison conditions" for their fellows.

The rebels' statement also insisted that they should not be compared with Peru's other, but traditionally more ruthless insurgent movement, the Shining Path, or Sendero Luminoso.

"We insist we are not blood-thirsty like the Shining Path and have never killed innocent civilians at whim. We have targeted our activity against the authorities and are also prepared to come to a peaceful agreement," the communiqué said.

A second batch of 17 freed hostages included seven Peruvian Foreign Ministry officials and ten Japanese executives from such companies as Mitsubishi, Toyota and Mitsui, who are among the biggest foreign investors in Peru.

They came out saying that they had not been mistreated and that they were well. But the Japanese hostages still inside the Ambassador's home sent a letter to the Peruvian Government, saying that they would not be able to keep up morale for much longer, and calling for more intensive efforts to secure their release.

"We are not sure how long we will be able to keep this up. Morale is flagging," said the letter signed by the 20 Japanese citizens, mostly company executives.

One mediator, Michael Minnig of the Red Cross, said yesterday that the latest releases were a "clear sign that negotiations are paying off".



Women in Guatemala City await the return from exile of guerrilla leaders for the signing of yesterday's peace accord

Hardcore gunmen threaten Guatemalan peace accord

BY TUNKU VARADARAJAN

THE longest-running civil war in the Western hemisphere came to a formal halt yesterday when Guatemala's left-wing guerrilla leaders signed an accord for a "firm and lasting peace" with President Arzú.

The peace pact ends a 36-year conflict, arguably the bloodiest in modern Latin America, in which more than 150,000 Guatemalans are estimated to have been killed, with some 50,000 "disappeared" and nearly a million people driven into exile.

The war, whose existence was never formally acknowledged by successive army-backed regimes, began in November 1960 when two left-wing army officers, Turcio Lima and Marco Antonio Yon Sosa, formed the Revolutionary Movement of the 13th of November, the nucleus of a guerrilla movement. That movement eventually came together in 1982 under a loose alliance called the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, three of whose leaders

attended yesterday's ceremony in Guatemala City.

The blackest chapter of the civil war occurred between 1978 and 1982, when the regimes of Generals Romeo Lucas García and Efraín Ríos Montt adopted a "scorched earth" policy against large swaths of rural Guatemala inhabited by the indigenous Quiché, Kakchikel, Kekchi and Mam people, completely erasing from the map at least 450 villages. It was not until the agreement of Esquipulas in 1986, by which the leaders of all Central American countries committed themselves to the peaceful resolution of internal political disputes that

the intensity of the civil war in Guatemala began to wane.

Yesterday's agreement has been greeted by Guatemalans with a mixture of jubilation and scepticism. Rigoberta Menchú, the indigenous civil rights campaigner who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1992, has said that there are right-wing groups still active which "would aim to disrupt" any peace with the country's indigenous majority.

Reports have also reached

the capital of groups of guerrilla "rearmados" — hardcore dissidents who are still determined to bring about a revolution — regrouping in the region of Quetzaltenango.

The main points of the accord, concluded in Mexico City, Oslo, Stockholm and Madrid, stipulate the demobilisation of the guerrillas and their return to civilian life; a reduction of the Guatemalan Army from 45,000 to 30,000 men and the dismantling of government-backed paramilitary groups; a reform of the judicial system; increased spending on rural infrastructure; and the creation of a fund to put the accord into effect.

Gingrich re-election support dwindles

BY IAN BRODIE

SUPPORT for the re-election of Newt Gingrich as Speaker was faltering yesterday after a report that two lawyers had advised him against mixing funds for charitable projects with his political projects.

Mr Gingrich, who remained out of sight, was still confident of retaining the Speaker's chair when the US House of Representatives votes on Tuesday next week. But his backing among Republicans was no longer as solid as party leaders claimed a week ago. Eight members were said to have shifted from a firm commitment to Mr Gingrich to being undecided and were pressing for him to give a full account of his ethical lapses at a public hearing of the ethics committee.

Republicans control the House by 227 seats to 208, and Democrats could only deny Mr Gingrich re-election if 20 Republicans simply voted "present", meaning they refused to say yes or no.

Before Christmas a subcommittee said that Mr Gingrich had brought discredit on the House by failing to seek legal advice before using tax-exempt funds for his televised college course — a partisan project — and by providing the committee with "inaccurate, incomplete and unreliable information" about the funding.

Mr Gingrich said he was wrong not to have sought legal advice over whether using the funds complied with tax laws.

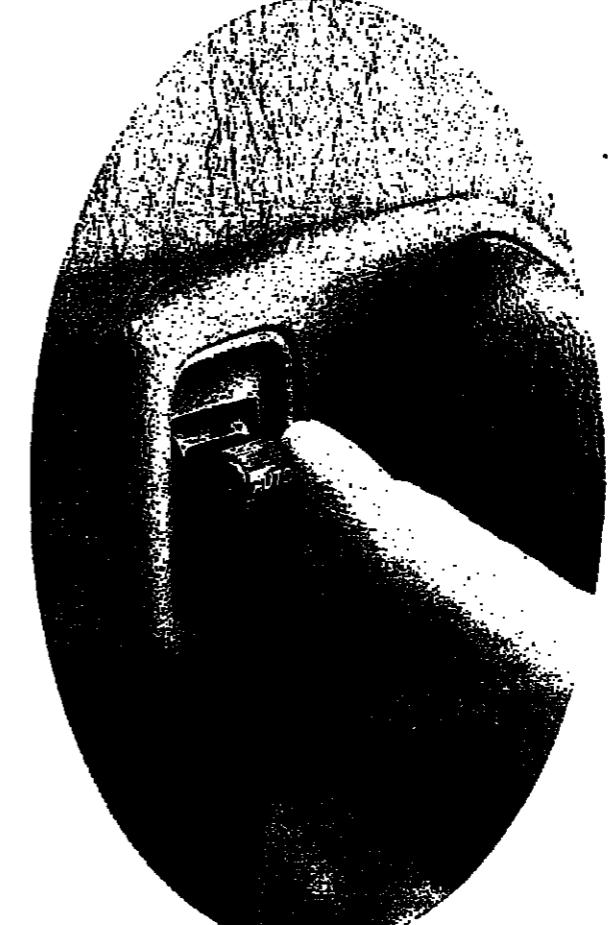
But the Atlanta Constitution unearthed documents showing that two lawyers did caution him against using tax-exempt funds for the project.

Democrats trying to capitalise on the Republicans' embarrassment were demanding that Mr Gingrich should be called to give a public account of why he apparently ignored the lawyers' advice and why he said he had not sought it.

The ethics committee — five Republicans and five Democrats — could propose a reprimand for Mr Gingrich by the House, in which case he could still run for re-election as Speaker. A sterner censure would bar him from running.

Leading article, page 19

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Dutch take lessons of Srebrenica nightmare into term as EU leader

The Irish retire; the Dutch take the stage. The European Union's rotating presidency changes hands this week and you will read and hear a great deal of guff about how Dutch ministers are going to get tough with Britain over changes to the Maastricht treaty.

Brave but futile attempts will be made to paint Hans van Mierlo, the Foreign Minister, and Michel Patijn, the European Affairs Minister, as a menacing federalist enforcement squad planning to hold John Major's (or Tony Blair's) feet to the fire this summer. This is one new year prediction you can safely



ignore. Messrs Van Mierlo and Patijn are not pushovers and must talk about urgent deadlines to concentrate minds, but the Dutch are in no mood to take risks. Whenever these two gentlemen

stand at any given moment, that spot will be safe centre ground.

If EU leaders agree a Treaty of Amsterdam next June, it will not be thanks to any bullying by the Dutch. They took big political risks in Europe several times this decade and had their fingers burnt.

Interest are often defined by past trauma. Germany's twin 20th-century nightmares were hyper-inflation and Hitler. German politicians today are taking a high price to preserve a hard mark and search for collective solutions to any and every international problem. Dutch realism in the EU

is likewise rooted in recent and painful experience.

Their economy is the least of their worries — top of the EU class, with the grinder so strong and stable that Dutch bankers talk condescendingly about the performance of the mark. Job creation is high, social spending shrinking and economic growth healthy.

But in the political balance of power, things have not gone so well. When the Maastricht treaty was being put together five years ago, the Dutch Government of the day, intoxicated by the thought of a quantum

leap towards a federal Europe and badly distracted by the disintegration of Yugoslavia, offered an ambitious version of the treaty. The document was humiliatingly binned at a meeting still known in The Hague as "Black Monday". The Dutch had broken the first rule of EU conduct for small states: before sticking your neck out, first check that France and Germany will not chop your head off. Neither Paris nor Bonn supported them at the moment of truth.

Other EU setbacks followed. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, refused to even consider allowing the

impeccably qualified former Prime Minister, Ruud Lubbers, to become President of the European Commission. Dutch dairy farmers, owners of some of the most lavishly subsidised cows in the world, reached the end of their free ride. The Netherlands became a contributor to the EU budget.

Perhaps the most disillusioning episode of all was the massacre by Bosnian Serbs last year of thousands of men in the captured town of Srebrenica, virtually before the eyes of helpless Dutch soldiers. Moral passion has long been a powerful element in Dutch foreign policy; the

fervour which once went into anti-nuclear marches is now channelled into human rights. The United Nations plan to designate "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina found favour with Dutch politicians who were among the first to respond to the appeal for troops.

These experiences have not led the Dutch to Euro-scepticism. But the shine has come off the dream and they have learnt a hard lesson: tread carefully.

GEORGE BROCK
*Srebrenica: Record of a War Crime, by Jan Willem Honig and Norbert Both (Penguin).

Troop withdrawal seals Moscow's Chechnya debacle

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

TWO years after Moscow embarked on its bloodiest and most disastrous military campaign in half a century, the last Russian combat troops withdrew from Chechnya yesterday, in effect ending control of the republic to the rebel Government.

In a move marked with little ceremony, soldiers of the 205th Motorised Rifle Brigade left their base at Khankala, near the capital, Grozny, returning Chechnya to the same position it was two years ago when President Yeltsin ordered his ill-fated assault on the tiny republic.

The whole responsibility for the situation in the republic now rests with the [Chechen] coalition Government," said Ivan Rybkin, secretary of Russia's Security Council, in a radio interview yesterday.

Although he predicted that the withdrawal of troops would build confidence between the two former enemies, the end of the conflict, negotiated by his predecessor General Aleksandr Lebed, has evoked mixed feelings in Russia. Many Russians, particu-

larly those with sons of military age, are relieved that no more conscripts will be sent to their deaths. Total casualties are estimated at between 40,000 and 90,000. In the Afghanistan war, by comparison, Soviet casualties were about 15,000.

However, there is also a sense of national humiliation that the Russian military, once regarded as the most formidable force in the world, was forced to retreat from a part of Russian territory by a small group of lightly armed guerrillas. After the recent murder of six Red Cross workers near Grozny, there is also grave apprehension that the Russian pullout will open the way for a fresh spate of killing, hijacking and hostage-taking, initiated by hardliners on both sides opposed to peace.

Much of what happens next in Chechnya will depend on the outcome of presidential elections scheduled for January 27. A crowded field of candidates includes Zelimkhan Yandarayev, the President; Aslan Maskhadov, the Prime Minister; Movladi Udgov, the Deputy Prime

Minister; and Shamil Basayev, the country's most popular field commander.

In Moscow, the Russians have made little secret of their hopes that the race will be won by Mr Maskhadov, a former colonel in the Soviet Army, who is regarded as the most reliable and moderate figure in the Chechen leadership. If he does win, there is a hope that during the coming five-year transition, when Chechnya's final status is due to be negotiated, a long-term settlement suitable to both sides can be found. Russia has repeatedly stated that it wants the troublesome republic to remain within the Russian Federation, while Chechnya demands full independence.

Under the leadership of a moderate such as Mr Maskhadov, it may be possible to strike a compromise whereby Russia would continue to provide economic and social assistance to Chechnya, which would enjoy sovereignty in all but name. However, there are fears of renewed conflict if Mr Basayev wins. The young guerrilla leader, who masterminded the recapture of Grozny last summer, is regarded in Russia as little more than a terrorist who has resorted to hijacking aircraft and seizing hostages in a hospital to get his way.

"Basayev is very popular among the Chechen people. He is a real political force to be reckoned with," said Boris Berezovsky, the deputy head of the Russian Security Council. "However, if he is elected President on January 27, this will complicate life for the Chechen people. In the eyes of world opinion, Basayev is a terrorist. Not only Russia, but no other country will recognise him as President."



Basayev: hardliner

Maskhadov: moderate

A ship lies stranded on the beach at Ponta Delgada, the capital of the Azores, after violent storms lashed the islands over the past few days, causing more than \$20 million (£12 million) damage to harbours, houses and roads. The Portuguese Cabinet

Aid for storm-damaged Azores

approved an emergency aid package on Friday. Carlos Cesare, the regional government's president, said havoc wrought by 95mph gales on

Christmas Day took the bill for storm damage in the past month to more than \$60 million. Damage to Ponta Delgada harbour, battered by

boats that broke free of their moorings, was put at some \$10 million. No one was hurt, but 20 families had to flee when their homes were flooded. (Reuters)

Weather forecast, page 18

Milosevic stars in black farce

FROM ANTHONY LOVY IN BELGRADE

20 feared lost as ship capsizes

Athens Twenty people, including two women and a girl aged ten, were thought to have died when a merchant ship capsized off the Greek town of Kymi on Saturday (John Carr writes). The captain is believed to have ignored storm warnings.

Greek Navy divers yesterday found six bodies in the Dystos, which was floating upside down. The ship was on a 200-mile voyage from Volos to Piraeus when two large waves hit it broadside. One officer jumped into a liferaft just before the ship turned over. He was rescued.

British hostage at rebel base'

THE British mine-clearer abducted in March by Khmer Rouge guerrillas has been reported alive in a Khmer Rouge stronghold in northeast Thailand, a rebel defector said (James Pringle writes). Chhoy Win, who defected to the Government last Saturday, said he saw a Western man he thought was Christopher Howes at the rebels' Anlong Veng base.

Singapore poll attack on US

Singapore: Claims by Goh Chok Tong, the Prime Minister, that America is interfering in the island's politics have become an election issue. The US State Department had accused him of linking voter support to the upgrading of public housing. (AP)

Atlantic search called off

Cape Town: Rescuers called off a search for 28 seamen lost in the South Atlantic after their ship sank while carrying sugar from Brazil to Iraq. A Hercules C130 plane failed to spot any survivors from the Jahan, which went down 680 miles west of here. (Reuters)

French singer dies aged 90

Paris: Mireille, a singer decorated by the Government for fostering the careers of many stars, died from pneumonia yesterday. Mireille Hartoch, 90, was known for founding the Little Conservatory of Song, had been in hospital since December 17. (AP)

THERE is something grimly comical in the movements of the two figures struggling on the snow-covered Belgrade pavement. One, a riot policeman, has grabbed the other, a British ITN cameraman who is trying to flee from the imminent rain of baton blows.

Yet the icy ground affords neither a grip, so their feet flail in frantic circular motions like cartoon characters in the gathering gloom of Saturday evening in the Serbian capital.

The moment of humour ends with the first blow of the truncheon, a loud thump that makes hurrying onlookers wince, and the blow is repeated seven times before the journalist breaks away and slides off into the darkness.

President Milosevic's attempts to silence the voices of protest raised against his overturning of municipal elections could appeal to any black humorist.

Even the main party of the coalition opposition, the Serbian Renewal Movement, sees the funny side. "If this were a movie I would laugh," said Gvozden Rosic, a leading member of the SPO and Serbian parliament. "But

ten million people here are suffering as a result of this struggle between the forces of democracy and progressivism and those of autocracy and repression, so it is actually more of a tragedy."

The Opposition celebrated its 40th day of protest with continuing demonstrations throughout Serbian towns.

The weekend began on a sombre note with the funeral in Belgrade of Predrag Starcevic, 37, killed on Christmas Eve in clashes between democracy supporters and pro-government crowds bussed into the capital by the side streets.

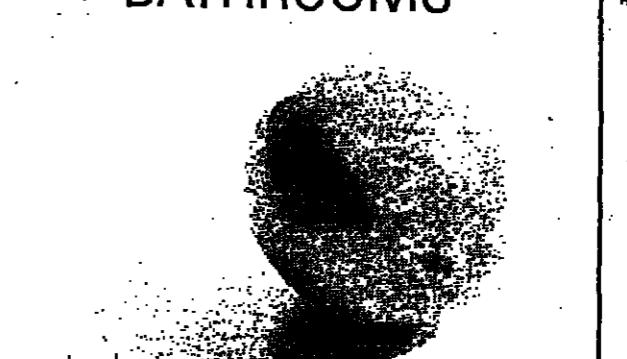
Vuk Draskovic, the principal opposition leader, though a charismatic figure whose long hair and beard suggest more a poet than politician, is prone to more rhetoric than pragmatism and has had a wildly fluctuating political career.

Armed against the demonstrators are the machinations

of a police-state. No stranger to the concept of divide and rule, Mr Milosevic brought in police units from rural areas to Belgrade once it became apparent that there was an initial degree of fraternisation between demonstrators and police from the capital.

Though they have so far avoided large-scale confrontation, the new police forces have begun to attack small groups, individuals and foreign journalists as they leave the rallies, an intimidatory tactic that could herald much worse to come. Crucially, the Serbian Army has sought to distance itself from the Government's crackdown.

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Israel to remain in Hebron 'for ever' Netanyahu says

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

THE Israeli Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, yesterday pledged that Israel would stay in Hebron permanently as he faced strong resistance from some of his ministers to a troop redeployment in the West Bank town.

Mr Netanyahu must seek the approval of the Cabinet after an agreement is signed transferring 80 per cent of Hebron to Palestinian control. Five ministers have publicly said they will vote against the plan. Opposition to the proposed redeployment has also come from the central committee of Mr Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party.

Mr Netanyahu yesterday promised greater stability in Hebron after a troop pullback. "Anyone who tells you that we are leaving Hebron is telling a lie. We are there and we are there to stay for all time," he told visiting American students. "There is continual talk about redeploying from Hebron. No, we are redeploying in Hebron."

He emphasised that the

Airport shut in labour dispute

Jerusalem: Israel's labour federation shut down ports and airports yesterday as part of a national strike after the arrest of Shlomi Shamir, a labour official. He was held for violating court restraining orders in connection with strikes held last week. (Reuters)

Peace doubts sour the whisky trade

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU
IN NICOSIA

THE faltering Arab-Israeli peace process did more to dent sales of Scotch whisky to the Middle East in 1996 than Islamic fundamentalism, but deluxe brands remained the favourite tipple.

Duty on Scotch was doubled to 80 per cent in Lebanon, the region's biggest market, and sales to Syria were hit by the activities of smugglers and counterfeiters, but Binyamin Netanyahu, Israel's hardline Prime Minister, is viewed as the main bogeyman by most whisky salesmen.

"What really kicked us was the wrong guy got elected in Israel. The slowdown in the peace process has damaged a lot of consumption, not just booze but other luxury items. People lack confidence in the

near future and want to save rather than spend, and there isn't much to celebrate," said a leading liquor salesman.

Fears that Islamic fundamentalism would damage business failed to materialise. Imports of Scotch are booming in Egypt, where the duty is 300 per cent; and up to 50,000 cases are smuggled yearly into "dry" but still thirsty Saudi Arabia, where there is a growing fundamentalist backlash.

"People say, 'How do you make a living?' The Arabs don't drink," the salesman said. "Yes," I say. "And Roman Catholics don't have sex before marriage."

Prohibition in Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait is not particularly effective, but per capita Israel consumes the least of those Middle Eastern countries where alcohol is legal.

Jewish area and the Cave of the Patriarchs — revered as the burial place of Abraham and his wife Sarah — would remain under Israeli security control. Mr Netanyahu rejected Palestinian demands for shared security of the shrine, which is holy to both Muslims and Jews.

The Israeli Army will be in that part without any limitation," he said. "We have arranged a variety of security arrangements that will, I believe, bring more security, more stability and I believe

Apology for raid eases Korean tension

BY JAMES PRINGLE

NORTH KOREA yesterday issued an unprecedented apology to South Korea for an incursion by one of its submarines into the South last September. The statement, carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, for the first time expressed "deep regret" for the incident.

American diplomats have been meeting North Korean envoys in New York during the past month to urge the reclusive Pyongyang regime to apologise.

Out of 26 North Koreans who landed from the submarine, which ran aground on a beach in eastern South Korea, 24 were shot dead, one was captured alive and one is still on the loose.

South Korea, which received the text of the apology in advance, welcomed it as a chance to clear up the incident, and said it suggested that North Korea was ready to respond positively to an offer of peace talks. There was no indication whether the Seoul Government would respond to a demand from Pyongyang to return the bodies of the dead infiltrators.

The statement from Pyongyang said that North Korea would "make efforts to ensure that such an incident will not recur and will work with others for durable peace and stability on the Korean peninsula".

The apology represents a major climbdown for Pyongyang, which had previously threatened to repay blood with blood and to retaliate "a hundredfold or a thousandfold" over the deaths of its men.

Observers noted, however, that the North, which is threatened by famine, only broadcast and disseminated the news for overseas consumption, not for its domestic market. Still, analysts noted that the submarine incident, which had done much to jeopardise a fragile truce on the Korean peninsula, had apparently been resolved.

The United States probably persuaded the North to apologise by promising more food aid, analysts said.



Anti-government protesters march against new labour laws in Seoul yesterday

Strike threatens to halt Seoul

FROM REUTER
IN SEOUL

MILITANT South Korean trade unionists yesterday threatened to paralyse Seoul with mass rallies and halt traffic on all motorways unless the Government revoked a labour law which has sparked a wave of strikes.

"Overthrow the Kim Young Sam Government," chanted the protesters in red and blue headbands. Nearly 20,000 angry workers poured into a large square in Seoul's business district yesterday. The

rally was called by the outlawed Korean Confederation of Trade Unions.

The leader, Kwon Young Kil, threatened to clog the nation's main north-south roads by driving vehicles slowly in all lanes and blocking traffic. Many workers driving to the Seoul rally from southern provinces had protested in a similar fashion late on Saturday.

His comments raised the temperature in a general strike that has paralysed industry and which turned violent for the first time on Saturday, when riot police used teargas to drive back the protesters.

Strikes began on Thursday

after the controversial law was pushed through parliament. Industrial chaos threatened to bring South Korea's economy to a halt at least until the end of the year.

Under the new law, which was pushed through a dawn sitting of parliament on Thursday when opposition lawmakers were still asleep, companies can lay off surplus workers, hire temporary staff and replace strikers.

Patten's deputy to stay on in new regime

FROM JAMES PRINGLE
IN HONG KONG

HOPES of a stable handover in Hong Kong received a boost yesterday when the colony's Chief Executive-designate invited the Governor's second-in-command to continue in the new administration.

Analysts said bringing the popular Ms Anson Chan into the new government was likely to make Chris Patten, the Governor, more of a "lame duck". Yet it was welcomed in Hong Kong as giving at least a superficial boost to confidence in the final six months before the transfer of sovereignty on July 1, 1997.

"I asked Ms Chan to stay on after 1997 to work for the future Hong Kong government, and I'm very happy that she accepted," said Tung Chee-hwa, who has been chosen as the Chief Executive.

Ms Chan said: "I know I can work very, very happily with Mr Tung because we both share a common objective, and that is to maintain a smooth transition and confidence and prosperity in Hong Kong after 1997."

A photograph of the two shaking hands after a two-hour meeting — the little known Mr Tung, 59, chosen by a Peking-backed selection committee, and the competent Ms Chan — was on the front of newspapers here yesterday.

Some analysts said the change of regime in Hong Kong was beginning six months ahead of schedule. "So Hong Kong is to get its dream team," the *South China Morning Post* said yesterday. "Just as Mr Tung has come to epitomise a set of prudent, businesslike values and a non-confrontational style for the future, Mrs Chan stands for the continuity of good and effective administration."

But the *Hong Kong Standard* showed a morose Mr Patten standing by a broken-down old car while Ms Chan smilingly clambered into a hotrod sports vehicle driven by a grinning Mr Tung.

Some analysts said Ms Chan's appointment may signal an early transfer of civil service loyalty to the Peking-backed administration.

Tibet bomb triggers Chinese crackdown

BY JAMES PRINGLE

A RENEWED Chinese crackdown seems likely in Tibet after a bomb explosion outside a government building injured three people, and a Tibetan former Fulbright music scholar received an 18-year prison sentence, analysts said yesterday.

The authorities called last Wednesday's bomb blast "an appalling act of terrorism

and a serious counter-revolutionary incident". Usually they make no mention of such incidents, though there are believed to have been several explosions this year, possibly caused by pro-independence forces loyal to the exiled Dalai Lama, who favours peaceful protest.

The London-based Tibet Information Network said police have set up checkpoints on the road west from Lhasa, visited hotels to question Tibetan guests, and begun house-to-house questioning of young Tibetan men.

Ngawang Choephel, 30, the music scholar who was sentenced on Friday, was held by security forces while in Tibet to make an amateur film about traditional music and dance. He was said to have confessed to spying for a "foreign country", thought to mean America.



Debt weapon curbs Pakistan politicians

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of people hoping to stand in Pakistan's elections on February 3 could be disqualified unless they pay their gas, electricity, telephone and water bills. Politicians routinely ignore such bills, and many owe hundreds of thousands of rupees.

It is the commonest form of corruption in a political system rife with fraud. *Zamindars* (landlords) are among the biggest offenders because of the amount of power and water they consume and their ability to browbeat bureaucrats. They are also the biggest tax dodgers.

The caretaker Government installed after Benazir Bhutto's administration was dismissed last month for corruption and incompetence is attempting to ensure only "clean" candidates take part, but weeding out corrupt contenders cannot be completed in time, so the Government is aiming at the easiest targets.

Miss Bhutto, who has little chance of a poll comeback, has little

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A chance encounter with a 19th-century treatise on sick headaches led Oliver Sacks to draw some surprising conclusions

SALLY SOAMES

The secret pattern that lies behind the twists and turns of scientific history

We may look at the history of ideas backward or forward. Or we can concentrate on the evolution, the effects and influences of what we once thought. Either way, we may imagine that history will be revealed as a progression, opening like the tree of life.

What often finds, however, is far from being a continuum. This is a conclusion that I will try to illustrate by some stories of how odd, complex, contradictory and irrational the processes of scientific discovery can be. And yet, beyond the twists and anachronisms in the history of science, perhaps there is an overall pattern to be discerned.

I began to realise how elusive scientific history can be when I became involved with my first love, chemistry. I vividly remember, as a boy, reading a history of chemistry by F.P. Armitage, a former master at my school, and learning that oxygen had been all but discovered in the 1670s by John Mayow, along with a theory of combustion and respiration.

Mayow's work was then forgotten and concealed by a century of obscurantism (and the preposterous phlogiston theory), and oxygen was only rediscovered 100 years later, by Lavoisier.

Mayow died aged 34: "Had he lived but a little longer," Armitage adds, "it can scarcely be doubted that he would have foreshadowed the revolutionary work of Lavoisier, and stilled the theory of phlogiston at its birth."

Was this a romantic exaltation of Mayow, or could the history of chemistry have been wholly ditterent, as Armitage suggests?

I thought of this history in the mid-1980s, when I was a young neurologist just starting work in a headache clinic. My job was to

make a diagnosis — migraine, tension headache, whatever — and prescribe treatment. But I could never confine myself to this, nor could many of the patients I saw.

They would often tell me, or I would observe, other phenomena: sometimes distressing, sometimes intriguing, but not strictly part of the medical picture — not needed, at least, to make a diagnosis.

Often in a classical migraine there is an aura, so-called, where the patient may see scintillating zigzags slowly traversing the field of vision. These are well described and understood. But sometimes, more rarely, patients would tell me of more complex geometrical patterns that appeared in place of, or in addition to, the zigzags — lattices, whorls, funnels and webs, all shifting, gyrating, and modulating constantly.

When I searched the current literature, I could find no mention of these. Puzzled, I decided to study 19th-century accounts, which tend to be much fuller, more vivid and richer than modern ones.

My first discovery was an extraordinary book on migraine written by Edward Livingstone, a Victorian physician, in the 1860s. It had a wonderful title: *On Migrain, Sick-Headache, and Some Allied Disorders: A Contribution to the Pathology of Nerve Storms*, and it was a grand, meandering sort of book, clearly written in an age far more leisurely than ours.

He had experienced them personally, and he ventured some deep speculations about their possible nature and origin. He thought they might represent "a sort of kaleidoscopic power" in the sensorium — a primitive, pre-personal generating power in the mind, the earliest stages, even precursors, of perception.

I could find no adequate description of these "geometrical spectra", as Herschel called them. In the entire 100-year period between his observations and my own. Yet it was clear to me that at least one person in twenty affected with migraine experienced them on occasion.

How had these phenomena — startling, highly characteristic, unmistakable hallucinatory patterns

evaded notice for so long? In the first place, someone must make an observation and report.

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— evaded notice for so long? In the first place, someone must make an observation and report.

In the same year that Herschel reported this phenomena, G.B.A. Duchenne, in France, described a case of muscular dystrophy. But here the stories diverge. As soon as Duchenne's observations were published, physicians started seeing the dystrophy everywhere.

Within a few years, scores of

elaborate descriptions of exactly the phenomena my patients had described.

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Herschel's paper, by contrast, sank without a trace. He was not a physician making medical observations but an independent observer of great curiosity. He considered

himself an astronomer even in regard to his own hallucinations, and indeed called himself "an astronomer of the inward".

He suspected that his observations had scientific importance, that such phenomena could lead to deep insights about the brain, but whether they had medical importance too was not in his mind.

If they were to point to new scientific ideas about the mind and brain, there was no way of making the connection in the 1860s. The necessary concepts only emerged 120 years later.

These necessary concepts

emerged in conjunction with the recent development of chaos theory.

This shows that, while it is impossible to predict in detail the individual disposition of each element in a system, when there are a large number of elements in interaction (as, for example, with the million-odd nerve cells in the primary visual cortex), patterns can be discerned at a higher level by using recently developed methods of mathematical and computer analyses.

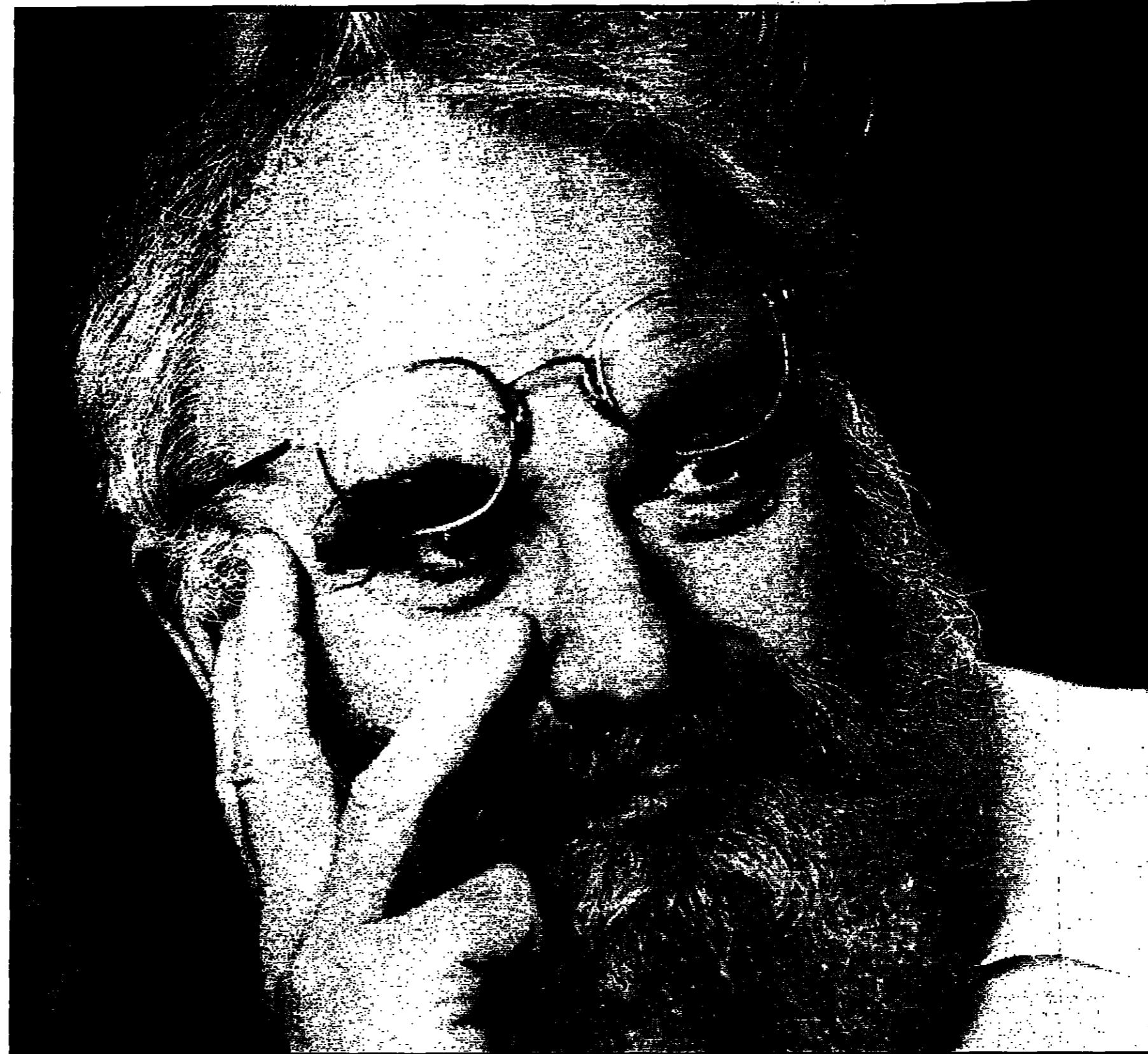
There are "universal behaviours" which emerge in such interactions, behaviours which represent the ways such dynamic, non-linear systems organise themselves. They tend to take the form of complex, repetitive patterns — indeed, the very sort of networks, whorls, spirals and webs that one sees in the geometrical hallucinations of

migraine. Such chaotic behaviours have now been recognised in a vast range of natural systems, from the eccentric motions of Pluto to the striking patterns that appear in the course of certain chemical reactions, to the multiplication of slime fungi and the vagaries of the weather.

With this, a hitherto insignificant or unregarded phenomenon like the geometrical patterns of migraine aura suddenly assumes a new importance.

It shows us, in the form of a hallucinatory display, not only an elemental activity of the cerebral cortex but an entire self-organising system, a universal behaviour, at work.

*Extracted from *Science: Forgetting and Neglect in Science* by Oliver Sacks, from *Hidden Histories of Science*, edited by Robert B. Silvers. Published January 13 by Granta Books, price £7.99*



As a young neurologist Oliver Sacks was puzzled by some of his patients' headache symptoms, until he found them described in a forgotten textbook of a century before

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Einstein's cool logic



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

Brains work in slow motion

EVEN a flash of inspiration moves through the brain at tortoise speed, Danish researchers have discovered. They studied how long a decision to move a finger, taken in one part of the brain, takes to reach another part of the brain where the movement is actually controlled.

The answer was about nine tenths of a second, and the two brain areas were

about 2.4 inches apart. That means a speed for the impulses of less than 0.2 mph.

Professor Albert Gjedde, of Aarhus Kommunehospital, one of those responsible, noted that the study involved "self-initiated movements", rather than reflexes caused by a reaction to outside stimuli. "At first we see one area of the brain become active, then we see another," he said. "There may be an overlap of 50 milliseconds." The team used two imaging techniques to identify the different areas of the brain in six volunteers, and to time how long it took the signals to move between them.

Sleeping off an infection

WHEN we feel off-colour, we go to sleep, and the instinct seems to be a sound one. Dr Janet Mullington, of the University of Pennsylvania Medical Centre, has studied the effects of sleep on minor infections by injecting volunteers with varying doses of endotoxins, poisons that appear on the cell surfaces of infectious bacteria such as *Salmonella*.

She found that the lowest doses increased the amount of deep sleep, the kind that is thought to be best for repairing the ravages of the day, and also stimulated production of the immune system chemicals that attack infective agents. Higher doses produced a fever, and disrupted sleep.

The results suggest that trying to enhance sleep during the early stages of infection might be helpful. Now she is investigating the effect of sleep deprivation on endotoxin challenge to find out whether, as common sense suggests, a lack of sleep makes us more vulnerable to infection.

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS

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The anniversaries of 1997

Next year marks the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding, the 100th birthday of the Tate Gallery, the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's defeat of the English at Stirling Bridge and 50 years of independence for India and Pakistan. Jack Lonsdale highlights the arrivals, departures and significant events of the year

JANUARY

- 1 The British coal industry was nationalised, 1947.
- 2 Nathaniel Bacon (1647-1676), coloniser in Virginia, born Suffolk.
- 3 Karl Mannheim (1893-1947), German sociologist, died London.
- 4 Armette Drost-Hulshoff (1797-1848), German poet, born Münster, Westphalia.
- 5 Albert Moechinger (1897-1985), Swiss composer, born Basel.
- 6 Wilson Carile (1847-1942), founder of the Church Army, born London.
- 7 Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey (1517-47), poet, executed, London.
- 8 Sir Isaac Pitman (1813-97), inventor of shorthand, died Bath.
- 9 Pierre Bonnard (1867-1947), French painter, died Le Cannet.
- 10 James Louis Garvin (1888-1947), Editor of *The Observer* 1908-42, died Beaconsfield.
- 11 Margaret Hungerford (1857-97), novelist, died Bandon, Co Cork.
- 12 Al Capone (1899-1947), American gangster, died Palm Island, Florida.
- 13 Samuel Poirier (1747-1825), schoolmaster and writer, born Harrow.
- 14 Grace Moore (1898-1947), American singer and film actress, killed in an air crash, Copenhagen.
- 15 Henry VII (1491-1547), King of England 1509-47, died London.
- 16 Reynaldo Hahn (1875-1947), French conductor and composer, died Paris.
- 17 Johann Qianzang (1697-1773), German composer, born Oberscheden.
- 18 Franz Schubert (1797-1828), Austrian composer, born Vienna.

FEBRUARY

- 1 Ludwig Erhard (1897-1977), Chancellor of Federal Republic of Germany 1963-66, born Furtwangen.
- 2 Ellen Wilkinson (1891-1947), trade unionist and politician, died London.
- 3 Ernst Frank (1847-1889), German composer, born Munich.
- 4 Sir Charles Kingsford Smith (1897-1935), Australian aviator, born Hamilton, Queensland.
- 5 Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931), American inventor, born Milan, Ohio.
- 6 French troops invading at Pembroke were captured, 1797.
- 7 Sharon Turner (1768-1847), historian, died London.
- 8 Jervis and Nelson defeated the Spanish fleet off Cape St Vincent, 1797.
- 9 Jorgen Bentzon (1897-1948), Danish composer, born Copenhagen.



Alexander Graham Bell, b. 1847

- 10 Philip Melanchthon (1497-1560), German theologian, born Bretton.
- 11 Blondon Jean-François Gravélet (1824-1897), lightfoot walker, died London.
- 12 Samuel Lover (1797-1868), songwriter, novelist and painter, born Dublin.
- 13 Vittoria Colonna (1492-1547), Italian poet, died Rome.
- 14 Benjamin Webster (1864-1947), actor, died Hollywood.
- 15 Dame Ellen Terry (1847-1928), born Coventry.

MARCH

- 1 Sir Thomas Brock (1847-1922), sculptor, born Worcester.
- 2 Horatio Walpole, 4th Earl of Orford (1717-97), writer, died London.
- 3 Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922), inventor of the telephone, born Edinburgh.
- 4 Saint Colette (1381-1447), founder of the Colegians Poor Clares, died Ghent.
- 5 Thomas Martin (1697-1771), antiquary, born Thetford, Suffolk.
- 6 Sir Francis Stanley Jackson (1870-1947), England cricketer and politician, died London.
- 7 Henry Cowell (1897-1965), American composer, born Menlo Park, California.
- 8 Angela Brazil (1868-1947), writer of school stories, died Coventry.
- 9 Alaric Alexander Watts (1797-1864), born London.
- 10 William I (1797-1888), first German emperor (1871), born Berlin.



- 11 Philip Morris (1897-1985), US tobacco tycoon, died New York.
- 12 Alfred-Victor, Comte de Vigny (1797-1863), French poet and novelist, born Loches.
- 13 Johann Abraham Schulz (1747-1800), German composer, born Lüneburg.
- 14 Abbé Prévost d'Exiles (1697-1763), French novelist, born Hesdin.
- 15 Flora Annie Steel (1847-1929), novelist, born Farrow.

APRIL

- 1 Dame Millicent Fawcett (1847-1929), suffragette, founder of Newnham College, Cambridge, born Aldeburgh, Suffolk.
- 2 Anthony Eden, 1st Earl of Avon (1897-1977), Prime Minister 1955-57, born Windlestone, Durham.

Alexandre Tansman (1897-86), Polish composer, born Lodz.

- 3 Paavo Nurmi (1897-1973), Finnish long-distance runner, born Turku.
- 4 Willems Barents (c. 1550-97), Dutch navigator, died in the Arctic.
- 5 John O'Keeffe (1747-1833), dramatist, born Dublin.
- 6 Margaret Oliphant (1828-97), novelist, died Windsor.
- 7 Richard Bedford Bennett, Viscount Bennett (1870-1947), Canadian Prime Minister 1930-35, died Mickleham, Surrey.
- 8 Sir Thomas Pope Blount (1649-97), writer, died Tyttenhanger, Herts.

JULY

- 9 John Paul Jones (1747-92), American War of Independence hero, born Kirkcudbright, Scotland.
- 10 Walter Runciman, 1st Baron Runciman (1847-1937), shipowner, born Dunbar.
- 11 Edmund Burke (1729-97), statesman, died Beaconsfield.
- 12 Charles Macklin (1697-1797), actor, died London.
- 13 Giuseppe Crespi (1665-1747), Italian painter, died Bologna.
- 14 Paul Delaroche (1797-1859), French painter, born Paris.
- 15 Antonio Vieira (1608-97), Jesuit missionary, orator and writer, died Salvador, Brazil.
- 16 Jean Ingelow (1820-97), poet, died London.
- 17 Max Liebermann (1847-1935), German painter, born Berlin.
- 18 Sebastian del Piombo (c. 1485-1547), Italian painter, died Rome.
- 19 The Tate Gallery was opened, 1897.
- 20 Amelia Earhart (1897-1937), American aviator, the first woman to fly over the Atlantic, born Atchison, Kansas.
- 21 Kathleen Kenney, Lady Kenney (1878-1947), sculptor, as Kathleen Scott, died London.
- 22 John Walter II (1778-1847), chief proprietor of *The Times* 1812-47, died London.
- 23 Sir Joseph Cook (1860-1947), Australian Prime Minister 1913-14, died Sydney.
- 24 First Edinburgh Festival, 1947.
- 25 Independence of India proclaimed, partitioning the country into India and Pakistan, 1947.
- 26 George Anson, Baron Anson (1697-1762), admiral, born Sloughborough, Staffs.
- 27 Ettore Bugatti (1881-1947), Italian car designer, died Paris.
- 28 Denis Papin (1647-c. 1712), French physicist, born Blois.
- 29 Sir John Forrest, Baron Forrest of Bunbury (1854-1918), Australian explorer and statesman, born near Bunbury, Western Australia.
- 30 Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1847-1935), explorer, born Edinburgh.
- 31 Roy Chadwick (1893-1947), aeronautical engineer, killed on a test flight.
- 32 First Naval mutiny at Spithead, 1797 (see also May 23).
- 33 Thornton Wilder (1897-1975), American writer, born Madison, Wisconsin.
- 34 Harald Saeverud (1897-1922), Norwegian composer, born Bergen.
- 35 Adolphe Thiers (1797-1877), French statesman, first President of the Third Republic, born Marseilles.
- 36 Christian X (1870-1947), King of Denmark 1912-47, died Copenhagen.
- 37 Sir Henry Beaufort (c. 1374-1447), Cardinal Bishop of Winchester, died Winchester.
- 38 Naval mutiny at Spithead, 1797.
- 39 Simon Fraser, 12th Baron Lovat (1667-1747), Jacobite, executed London.
- 40 John Wilmot, 2nd Earl of Rochester (1647-80), poet, born Dulcieley, Oxon.
- 41 Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), American publisher, founder of the prizes bearing his name, born Makó, Hungary.
- 42 Kathleen Kenney, Lady Kenney (1878-1947), sculptor, as Kathleen Scott, died London.
- 43 John Walter II (1778-1847), chief proprietor of *The Times* 1812-47, died London.
- 44 Sir Joseph Cook (1860-1947), Australian Prime Minister 1913-14, died Sydney.
- 45 Naval mutiny at Spithead, 1797.
- 46 Rodney ("Gipsy") Smith (1860-1947), evangelist, died at sea.
- 47 Jacob Burckhardt (1818-97), Swiss art historian, died Basle.
- 48 Anton Deniké (1872-1947), anti-Bolshevik general 1918-20, died Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 49 Enid Blyton (1897-1968), writer of children's stories, born London.
- 50 Independence of India proclaimed, partitioning the country into India and Pakistan, 1947.
- 51 Ettore Bugatti (1881-1947), Italian car designer, died Paris.
- 52 Denis Papin (1647-c. 1712), French physicist, born Blois.
- 53 Lester Pearson (1897-1972), Canadian Prime Minister 1963-68, Nobel Peace laureate 1957, born Toronto.
- 54 Willis Cather (1873-1947), American novelist, died New York.
- 55 Sir Almroth Wright (1861-1947), bacteriologist, died Farnham Common, Bucks.
- 56 Sir John Forrest, Baron Forrest of Bunbury (1854-1918), Australian explorer and statesman, born near Bunbury, Western Australia.
- 57 Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1847-1935), explorer, born Edinburgh.
- 58 Roy Chadwick (1893-1947), aeronautical engineer, killed on a test flight.
- 59 First Edinburgh Festival, 1947.
- 60 Liberia became the first independent state in Africa, 1947.
- 61 Sir Joseph Cook (1860-1947), Australian Prime Minister 1913-14, died Sydney.
- 62 Alice Meynell (1847-1922), essayist and poet, born London.
- 63 William Faulkner (1897-1962), American novelist, born New Albany, Missouri.
- 64 Hugh Lofting (1886-1947), writer of children's stories, died Santa Monica, California.
- 65 Giovanni Montini (1897-1978), Pope Paul VI 1963-78, born Concesio.
- 66 Herbert Hensley Henson (1863-1947), bishop of Durban 1920-39, died Hinckley, Suffolk.
- 67 Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra (1547-1616), Spanish novelist, born Alcalá de Henares.

AUGUST

- 6 John Paul Jones (1747-92), American War of Independence hero, born Kirkcudbright, Scotland.
- 7 Sebastian del Piombo (c. 1485-1547), Italian painter, died Rome.
- 8 Jacob Burckhardt (1818-97), Swiss art historian, died Basle.
- 9 Anton Deniké (1872-1947), anti-Bolshevik general 1918-20, died Ann Arbor, Michigan.
- 10 Enid Blyton (1897-1968), writer of children's stories, born London.
- 11 Independence of India proclaimed, partitioning the country into India and Pakistan, 1947.
- 12 Sir Charles Lyell (1797-1875), geologist, born Kirriemuir.
- 13 Mrs Belloc Lowndes (1868-1947), novelist, died Eversley Cross, Hants.
- 14 Aneurin Bevan (1897-1960), politician, born Tredegar.
- 15 Sir Sacheverell Sitwell (1897-1988), poet and critic, born Scarborough.
- 16 Pierre Bayle (1647-1706), French philosopher, born Carcassonne.
- 17 The wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, 1947.
- 18 Gabor Matay (1797-1875), Hungarian composer, born Nagyvárad.
- 19 Gaetano Donizetti (1797-1849), Italian composer, born Bergamo.
- 20 Max Planck (1858-1947), German physicist, Nobel laureate 1918, died Göttingen.
- 21 Henry Howard (1769-1847), painter, died Oxford.
- 22 Alexander Chisholm (1792-1847), painter, died Rothesay, Isle of Bute.
- 23 Adolf von Hildebrand (1847-1921), German artist, born Marburg.
- 24 Admiral Duncan defeated the Dutch off Camperdown, 1797.
- 25 William Motherwell (1797-1835), poet, born Glasgow.
- 26 Sidney Webb, Baron Passfield (1859-1947), social reformer and historian, died near Liphook, Hants.
- 27 James Thomas Bradwell, 7th Earl of Cardigan (1797-1868), led the charge of the Light Brigade in October 1854, born Hambleden, Bucks.
- 28 Justus Lipsius (1547-1606), Flemish scholar, born Overijse.
- 29 James Hannington (1847-1885), bishop and missionary, born Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex.
- 30 Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin (1759-97), writer, died London.
- 31 William Wallace defeated English forces at Stirling Bridge, 1297.
- 32 Sir Anthony Panizzi (1797-1879), librarian of the British Museum 1837-66, born Brescello, Modena.
- 33 Grace Aguilar (1810-1847), poet and novelist, died Frankfurt am Main.



Ellen Wilkinson, died 1947

SEPTEMBER

- 3 Benjamin Nottingham Webster de Vaurenargues (1715-47), French essayist, died Paris.
- 4 Julian von Sachs (1832-97), German botanist, died Würzburg.
- 5 Erich Korngold (1897-1957), Austrian composer, born Brno.
- 6 Thomas Chalmers (1780-1847), first Moderator of the Free Church of Scotland, died Edinburgh.
- 7 Sir Edwin Ray Lankester (1847-1924), zoologist, born London.
- 8 George Grossmith (1847-1912), singer, actor and writer, born London.
- 9 Heinrich Heine (1797-1856), German poet, born Düsseldorf.
- 10 Edward John Higgins (1864-1947), third general of the Salvation Army 1829-34, died New York.
- 11 Sir Bernard Spilsbury (1877-1947), pathologist, died London.
- 12 Sir Alfred North Whitehead (1861-1947), mathematician and philosopher, died Cambridge, Mass.
- 13 Stanley Baldwin, 1st Earl Baldwin of Bewdley (1867-1947), Prime Minister 1923-24, 1924-29; 1935-37, died Astley Hall, Wors.
- 14 John Wilkes (1727-97), politician, died London.
- 15 Martin Opitz (1597-1639), German poet, born Bunzlau.
- 16 Oscar Lorenzo Fernandez (1897-1957), US naval officer, died San Diego, Calif.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Georges Sorel (1847-1922), French socialist, born Cherbourg.
- 4 Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47), German composer, died Leipzig.
- 5 Marshall Aid for European recovery inaugurated, 1947.
- 6 James Agate (1877-1947), dramatic critic, died London.



Author Enid Blyton, born in 1897, with two of her characters: Noddy and PC Plod. More than 600 of her works were published

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REVIEW: Saturday



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Tough guys learn to survive in New York: Robert De Niro stars in *Sleepers*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS
Memories of Gerald Durrell: the author is portrayed in a new biography
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Where Kean's spirit went for a Burton

If These Walls Could Speak: Benedict Nightingale launches a Times series about buildings that have a special artistic resonance, with a look at the Old Vic

My most-loved theatre? To someone in my hyperactive profession, that is a tricky question, like asking a car to name its favorite petrol station or David Frost his pet airport lounge or Madonna her No 1 bedroom. It could be the Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells, where a mustachioed villain sent me screaming in terror from my first-ever pantomime, or the gymnasium of the Seaford school where I made a startling stage debut as the Third Witch in *Macbeth*.

If charm were the criterion, my choice would be, well, the Criterion. I still feel a certain thrill when I go down those stairs, past Victorian tiles commemorating Flotow, Boldioli and other forgotten composers, and into the pretty little auditorium its original owners proudly described as "an underground Temple of Drama into which it is necessary to pump air to save the audience from being asphyxiated". Or it could, and probably should, be the Royal Court, where I came as a teenager in my angriest shirt and suede shoes to watch John Osborne launch a theatrical renaissance back in 1956.

But, no, it has to be the Old Vic. That was where I was taken again and again as a boy to see Richard Burton and John Neville in Shakespeare and where, as a cub reviewer, I saw the members of Laurence Olivier's National Theatre Company prove themselves worthy of the customised Oz on the South Bank into which they unwillingly moved in 1976.

The Vic's current owners, Ed and David Mirvish, have spent millions restoring the Victorian auditorium behind the old Georgian frontage. All is now gold-and-pewter lustre, and very nice too. But my first memories are of a shabby, run-down theatre which charged fingers and toes, rather than arms and legs, to those in search of the classics. To an earnest 14-year-old, the place radiated high seriousness. Today, too, there is a texture, a richness you cannot miss.

Think not only of the ghost who reputedly has haunted the Vic

when would-be developers have come up with philistine plans — like Lillian Baylis, ferociously prowling about in her academic robes — but of those who could also be hovering in the wings. Kean acted there. Grimaldi clowned there. Paganini gave his farewell concert there. Melba sang there. De Valois choreographed Markova there. And there Olivier, Sybil Thorndike, Edith Evans, Peggy Ashcroft, Ralph Richardson, Michael Redgrave, Robert Stephens and many others made their names or did their best work or both.

Mark you, a more unlikely candidate for an ex-officio National Theatre was often hard to imagine. For much of its history, the Vic had

• To an earnest 14-year-old, the place radiated high seriousness •

a reputation for putting on bad work, attracting crude audiences, and financially ruining its owners. When it opened as the Royal Coburg in 1818, the hope was that an area known largely for its marshes and its thives would soon improve. Early visitors included the great, the good and even the adolescent Victoria, who enjoyed an opera called *Guy Mannering* in what her diary recorded as "a very clean and pretty little theatre".

But the problems soon mounted. Since only the great "patent" theatres north of the river were allowed to present legitimate drama, the Coburg found itself inserting hornpipes into *Julius Caesar* and staging a melodramatic burletta called *Macbeth King of Scotland* or *The Weird Sisters*. And the area filled with proletarian, not middle-class, housing, increasingly, the fare consisted of eccentricities that included Baylis

melodrama staged on the cheap for often rowdy spectators.

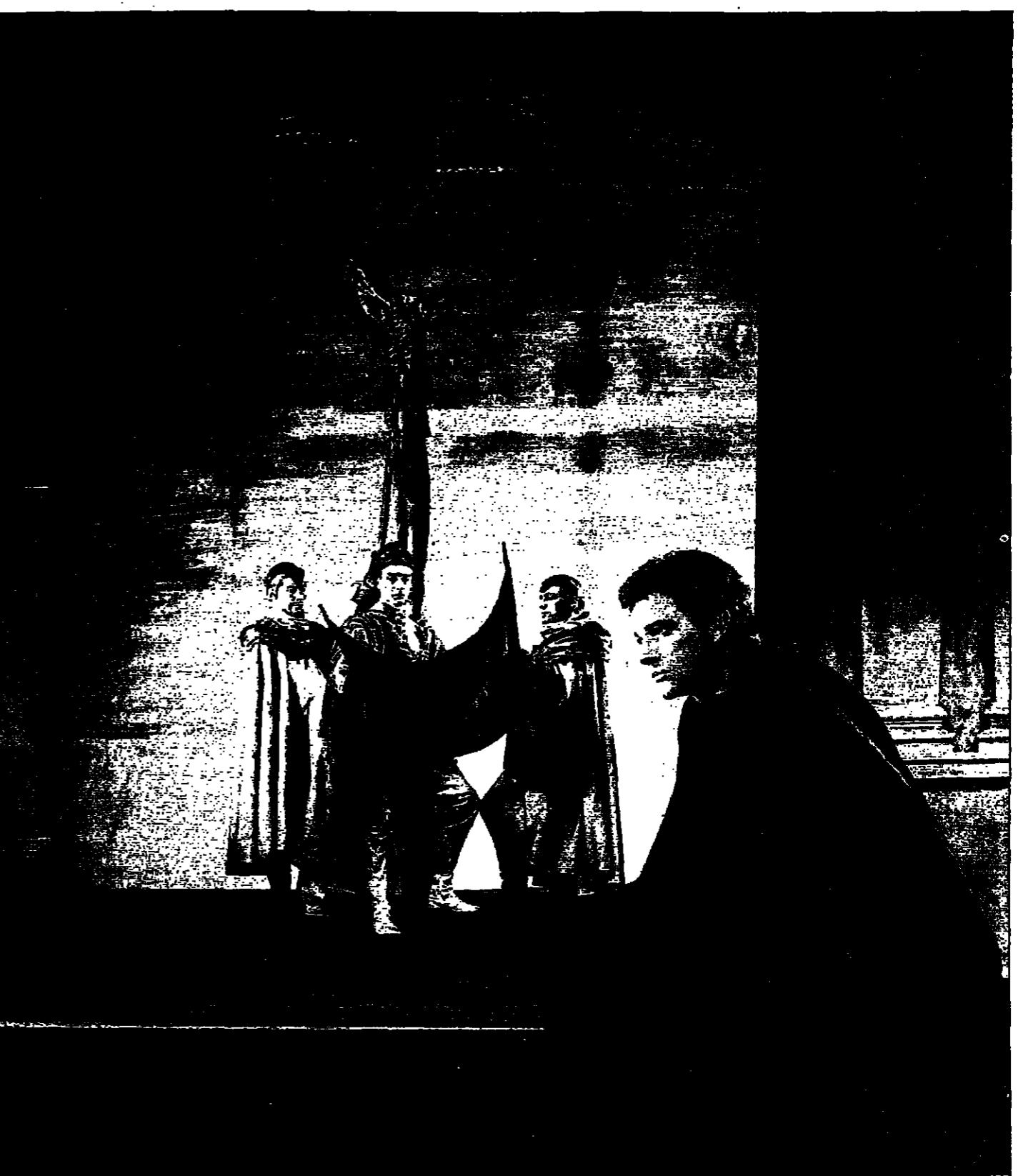
As early as 1820 Hazlitt felt he was in "a bridegroom or brothel, amidst pickpockets, prostitutes and mountebanks, instead of being in the precincts of Mount Parnassus with the Muses". In 1849 Charles Kingsley wrote of "the beggary and rascality of London pouring in to hear their low amusement from the neighbouring gin palaces and thieves' cellars". Mad with resentment at the cheers for the Iago who was playing opposite his Othello, Keats declared at the curtain call he had "never acted to such a set of ignorant, unmannered brutes as I see before me".

Vic audiences always had their favourites. Mayhew recalled the yell of "Bravo Vincent, go it me tulip" as an actress called Eliza Vincent seized a series of villainous Cossacks by their collars and gave them a hearty shaking. And they did more than boo the baddies. When Bill Sykes dragged Nancy round the stage by her hair and then dashed out her brains, the response was a deafening "roar of a dozen escaped menageries" and language never "dreamt of in Bedlam".

In the 1850s more than 2,000 people would sometimes crowd tipsy into much the space now occupied by 1,100. That presumably explains why during one Boxing Day panto some 16 people were killed in a panic rush after cries of "fire" greeted the then unusual sight of a man lighting a match in the stalls.

It was in hopes of bringing order to the place that a most unlikely lessee, the temperance reformer Emma Cons, eventually transformed it into the Royal Victoria Hall Coffee Tavern, planning to offer "the working and lower middle classes recreation such as the music-hall offers but without the attendant moral and social disadvantages".

By 1914 the theatre was in the hands of Lilian Baylis, her niece, who became the most improbable yet most important producer of her day. Stories galore are told of eccentricities that included Baylis



Richard Burton in a 1953 Old Vic *Hamlet*, with John Neville in the background and, possibly, a teenaged Nightingale in the audience

falling in mid-conversation to her knees to ask God for inexpensive actors, and of solecisms such as telling Charles Laughton after a poor first night: "I'm sure you did your best and that one day you may be quite a good Macbeth". But the real point is that during her 23-year tenure she succeeded in her aim of providing inspirational opera, ballet and Shakespeare "for the masses".

Gielgud gave his first Hamlet at the Vic, as did Olivier and Guinness — but then what major modern classical actor did not pass through those grotty dressing

rooms on to sets that, money always being short, became famous for their sparteness? Myself, I date my love of Shakespeare from seeing Burton's cunning Henry V, his raging Coriolanus, his fierce Welsh Caliban, his quietly demonic Iago, and Hamlet so immediate it could have left me echoing the comment of an old Vic theatrologer: "They did 'ave a lot of trouble in the family, them 'amlets'. We sat on seats not a lot comfier than the wooden benches the Victorians occupied, and were transported by that shuddering power.

Since the National replaced it, the Vic has had its ups and downs.

Jonathan Miller directed Eric Porter's *Leah* there, Simon Callow staged *Carmen Jones* there, Peter O'Toole, notoriously resuscitated 19th-century hamminess in the form of a baying, barking Macbeth; but the theatre has yet to find itself a clear role. Will Peter Hall's impending series of revivals, combined with Dominic Dromgoole's premieres, allow the famous old place to acquire a distinctive new personality? I cannot think of a better new year's wish for theatrical 1997.

• Tomorrow, Rodney Milnes on the Drottningholm Theatre, Sweden

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COLISEUM 0171 632 9320 ENDS SATURDAY 23 DEC 7.30pm	THE INCOMPARABLE
KIROV BALLET The Nutcracker	Royal Opera House 0171 304 4000 2nd Cities Sat 7.30pm Tickets available on the day
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 0171 950 2420 English National Ballet	The Royal Opera Tues 7.30 Thu 8.30pm Sat 7.30 Fri 7.45pm Sat 2.30 Sun 2pm
THE NUTCRACKER	Mon 23 Dec 7.30pm (last performance) CINDERELLA 0171 202 1230 SWAN LAKE 0171 202 1230 (first)

THEATRES

ADELPHI "ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S MASTERPIECE" West St Journal	APOLLO 0171 5070444 4444
SUNSET BOULEVARD Winner of 7 Tony Awards including	DO DRINK & JIVE! THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS PARTY
BEST MUSICAL	THE OFFICIAL TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES BROTHERS Special Xmas season end 18 Jan. Many parts sold out
STARLIGHT EXPRESS	REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY in THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (abridged) All 37 plays in 90 minutes
DOMINION 0171 665 0000 2000 0171 665 0000 0171 665 0000	GARRICK 0171 494 5055/312 1950 (no big fees) Some Expenses You Never Forget WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre Production

ALBURY THEATRE 0171 369 1790 0171 369 1790	PIP DONAGHY and BARRY STANTON
THE CHEERY ORCHARD	AN INSPECTOR CALLS "THRILLING... MUST BE SEEN"
CHAPEL OF LOVE PICCADILLY CIRCUS 0171 287 4434/20 0000 0171 287 4434/20 0000	D DOMINION 0171 494 5055/312 1950 "ONE OF THE MOST INTROVERTING, THEATRICALLY IMAGINATIVE EXPERIENCES OF THE 1990s" Eve SADIE "TWO HOURS OF ENTHRALLINGLY STUNNING DRAMA" Tel Mon-Sat 7.45, Sat 5.30 & 8.15, Wed 2.30pm
DOMINION 0171 494 5055/312 1950	OLIVER! 3RD IRRESISTIBLE YEAR "JONATHAN BARTON'S MASTERSPIECE YOU CAN'T ASK FOR MORE"
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ENTERTAINMENTS

Tel 0171 680 6222 Fax 0171 461 9313	SWAN LAKE 0171 494 5055/312 1950 (no big fees) Some Expenses You Never Forget WINNER OF 19 MAJOR AWARDS The Royal National Theatre Production
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Tel 0171 680 6222 Fax 0171

Matthew Parris



■ Winter? Then it must be waning carols, warring royals and the wrong sort of snow

Over the years I have noticed how formulaic is the content of both news and commentary from Fleet Street. There is now no reason why the process should not be automated and I have been working on a computer software package to replace editors. Daily papers could be produced with just a handful of staff working unfussed hours.

Take the annual leading article about the return of the Elgin Marbles. This may be loosely pegged to some "event", but the event is of little consequence: a trigger for an amusing exchange of readers' views, to which I always look forward. The views never change, the marbles never move and there is no reason why the Elgin correspondence could not be programmed in advance for a set fortnight (say) in December, every year.

Then there is the British Summer Time debate: the publication of statistics for English road deaths, Scottish accidents before sunrise, a leading article, an opinion column by Edwina Currie and a lively correspondence for about a week.

This can be reliably pegged to the last Sunday in October. As reliably, we can schedule the debate about May Day and whether we need a new public holiday; the annual return of the abdication question (after the Queen's birthday) can be prepared for, with opinion columns commissioned from Lord Blake and Lord St John of Fawsley.

Some stories, like the pros and cons of a European single currency, occur roughly fortnightly. But it should be simple to arrange a mini-storm, following a quote from a politician, from Monday to Wednesday inclusive every two weeks — with the appropriate leader column.

Should we smack children? This is a twice-yearly issue while the impending bankruptcy of Eurotunnel occurs about three times a year. The future of the Royal Yacht debate is biannual: the future of the Gurkhas biennial. "Future" of concerns need only the slightest of news pegs, easily contrived: thus future of the Church of England/West End theatre; the British sit-down supper stories can be ready for use months in advance. "Decline" of stories likewise: of red squirrels/hats/the British high street/the art of conversation/British seaside resorts/chivalry ... these stories can be dusted down once or twice a year.

"Many stories can be dusted down once or twice a year"

article reporting another bumper year for package holidays. Similarly with global warming.

Also for spring is reserved the piece about why there are no cuckoos left for us to hear first, why we may be heading for a summer drought and whether the royals are setting a good example by their glitzy skiing holidays.

For the summer we have articles about the British in Tuscany, skin cancer and the decline of wild flowers. Decline of cricket articles and "Pew! What a scorch!" articles await, as do surveys of smog, inner-city riots and burgeoning ice-cream sales. The Queen will be snubbed somewhere abroad (probably Australia) and there will be a *Times* third leader about the silly season, blissfully unaware that it is part of it.

Autumn brings articles on the management of party conferences, suicides among farmers and whether the Royal Family is setting a good example by hunting. Should fireworks be banned?

Winter brings a lament on the decline of the Christmas carol, the unpreparedness of local authorities for snow, Royal absences at Sandringham at Christmas ... and a column by Matthew Parris on how every column but his own is predictable.

Nanny state

JUST days after Jemima Goldsmith explained through the press how she planned to bring up her son as an Urdu-speaking Muslim, the strikingly beautiful daughter of billionaire Sir James Goldsmith has slipped off to Pakistan.

Jemima flew out on Saturday afternoon taking baby Sulaiman to his native country for the first time, accompanied by his new nanny, a London-based Pakistani girl in her mid-20s.

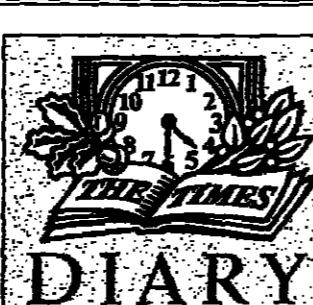


With her mother, Lady Annabel, in Barbados and her father and the rest of the family at Sir James's hacienda in Mexico, she opted to join her husband Imran in Lahore rather than stay in London to see in the new year.

The nanny has just been appointed after an arduous search for somebody prepared to look after Sulaiman in the run-up to the Pakistani elections in February, when both Imran and Jemima will be campaigning. She was recommended by the mother of one of Jemima's close friends and, with family in Pakistan, is happy to fit in with the household plans.

Jemima has taken quickly to motherhood, breast-feeding and changing nappies like a bustling young wet nurse. She maintains that Sulaiman has inherited Imran's looks. Although the Muslim child has no true godparents, Jemima's close friend Vicki Tompkins, the Green Shield stamps heiress, has been awarded an honorary role in that department.

President Clinton didn't hold back on Christmas Day at the White House this year, where the



menu was long on carbohydrates: turkey with white bread and corn bread stuffing, peppered ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, dinner rolls and a relish tray as well as cherry jello, pumpkin and lemon meringue pie and chocolate cake.

Minus gala

SEDFIELD in Co Durham will be without its MP for the new year celebrations. Tony Blair, who with Cherie traditionally enjoys a constituency singalong with pints of beer, mince pies and lags from the local Labour club, has received an alternative invitation.

Sir David Puttnam has asked the Blairs to be guests of honour at the champagne-soaked party he plans at his sizeable home in Ireland.

Sedgefield locals have taken the news with customary stoicism: "It's a real shame. A lot of people look forward to seeing them there," says Blair's agent, John Burton. "But Tony is enjoying a glittering career and with a bit of luck, this could be the last chance he gets to relax for a few years."

John Major, meanwhile, will be spending a modest New Year's Eve at Chequers with a small gathering of friends and family. He isn't planning a party — which will come as no surprise to those carpentry souls



Hankies out

A VILE contagion has afflicted the Royal Shakespeare Company. The flu epidemic now gripping the country by its throat has all but seen off the RSC's Barbican production of *As You Like It*.

Friday was a night for under-studies when four performers, including the impressive Joseph Fiennes, brother of Ralph, were laid low and couldn't muster an appearance on stage. After a monumental reshuffle, seven actors played different parts from those billed in the programme. Many who refused to succumb to the ague, such as the company veteran John Woodvine, coughed and spluttered their way through the drama. This bug knows no theatrical boundaries — for it has spread to Stratford, where actors are dropping like ninepins.

Son down

IT'S not just teenage girls pressing flowers on Prince William who are making his life difficult. When the Prince was playing for the Eton Colts in the last match of the season

against King's Canterbury, one of the opposition team made a bee-line for him. The heir to the throne was prostrate on the floor when the boy boldly attempted to stamp on him. Before he could lift his rugger boot, however, the pyke was hauled off and sent packing from the field of play.

Shooting star

WE CAN expect to see more of Elizabeth Hurley in Britain next year. Her close friend Henry Dent-Brocklehurst, hosting shooting parties this Christmas at his £50 million estate, Sudeley Castle

alternatives. Similarly, everyone knows family life is not all sweetness and light. But what is better?

Certainly not a care home. I remember, all too vividly, a respected academic telling me how important it was to keep the children's home system running: it had "special strengths". He had taught social work courses for many years. Only later did it emerge that he was part of a child pornography network.

Nothing can be done overnight. That would cause more problems than it solved. But the system of children's homes has become a moral cesspit. (This is not, of course, to condemn every individual home.) Over a shortish period, they should be closed down as the workhouses eventually were. Only the most traumatised young people should be treated differently, and they should be given truly professional care. Social workers, charities and the courts should be given formal instructions to operate a colour-blind adoption policy.

None of this, probably, requires a new Adoption Act. But it does require determination. We are talking about a tiny minority of children. Many come from what it is now fashionable to call the underclass. We should do everything we can to encourage them to get out, and get on. They should not be left in a lost world. They must be helped to find themselves.

Paul Barker is a Senior Fellow of the Institute of Community Studies

Finding homes for our lost children

families. They seldom come near to being adopted.

But this is not something capable of a magic solution. Barrie could wave his dramatist's wand and give Peter a substitute mother, Wendy. Spielberg could get ET back into the spacecraft. The Prime Minister is right to be concerned about what has been going on in care homes and in social services departments. But his apparent intention to take adoption approval entirely out of the hands of social workers is no abracadabra answer.

In my experience, charities are just as likely to take a hard line on, for example, inter-racial adoptions — and many of the most judicious examples of feel-dragging about adoption approval now relate to race.

It was an adoption adviser at a charity who once told me that it was better for a black child to remain in care than go to a white family to be adopted, or even fostered. Nor are the courts without sin in all this.

The ethnic definitions here are, in real life, very slippery. Many of the children are mixed-race (that is

precisely why some of them are in care). But the doctrine is applied with the ferocity of Alabama in the bad old days. There are "whites" and there are "blacks"; no variants are allowed. So a half-white child is deemed to be black, not white. A Sikh child, also defined as "black", may be placed with a Caribbean family even though Sikhs themselves would feel that the two groups have very little, culturally, in common. (The latest census results show that even "Asian" is a term that lumps together wide divergencies of experience.)

Some social workers, especially in London, even reckon that Turkish or Greek Cypriots are honorary blacks, because they belong to an ethnic minority. They might therefore be allowed to adopt a mixed-race child, in preference to "white" parents, or a Cypriot child could be "covertly" placed with a Nigerian family.

It is a tragedy of (mostly) good intentions. Obviously, it would be the best of all possible worlds if an

ethically matching parent could always be found. But most would-be adopters are white. It cannot be said too often that Britain is not a multiracial society. Ninety-five per cent of the population is of English, Scottish, Irish or Welsh descent. It is no use trying to use adoption policy to battle against this demographic fact (although in London, where many of the dafest policies are pursued, the ethnic proportion is much higher).

The so-called professionals in this field are mostly, it must be said, a very odd bunch. You only have to go into a care home to begin to wonder about the motives that brought most of the staff there. They are usually without any qualifications for their (very tough) work; many were in care themselves. Even the academics who concern themselves with this shadowland of the welfare state seem not to see the wood for the trees. Some of them argue that care homes are as good as, or better than, a family.

Churchill once said that democracy was the worst way of running a country — until you considered a

and seems to have thought wisely. He has absorbed a genuine ecumenism.

There may be conservatives in the Church of England, as there are in the Roman Catholic Church, who think that their subsection of their Church's position is the sole truth, that other Christians are in error and that Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and followers of other faiths are just so many types of pagan.

Prince Charles has explicitly rejected this view, and has been criticised for doing so. Of course, Prince Charles is right to see the virtues of the teaching of Islam, he is right to attend the opening of a Hindu temple, he is right to show his respect for all branches of Christianity. As George Carey has said, Prince Charles is "a man who takes faith seriously". It is not serious to squat like a frog in one's own puddle of belief and pretend that is the ocean of faith.

There are still Anglicans and Roman Catholics who do adopt a narrowly sectarian point of view. Fortunately, George Carey and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, are completely free of this fault.

In terms of their congregations, the two Churches are of approximately equal size, but are historically connected to different groups. The Church of England is what it says, a Church with a powerful national appeal, at its strongest where the English culture is most cherished. The Roman Catholic Church is much more Celtic, still with strong connections to the descendants of the Irish immigrants of the past 200 years.

The two Churches have different intellectual traditions, national status and international connections. When they work together they are much more effective than when they work separately, let alone when they are in apparent conflict.

They both have the same aim, to re-Christianise what has become a largely pagan Britain. This is not an evangelism which is hostile to other faiths; if the Dalai Lama's example suddenly inspired a million British people to convert to Tibetan Buddhism, Britain would become a more Christian country. The culture that needs to be evangelised is the sceptical materialism of the modern world. One can apply to both Archbishops the phrase George Carey used of the Prince of Wales. They are both "serious about faith", and they are making some headway against the wind of our age.



George Carey is leading his flock by example, while Prince Charles has refused to be narrow-minded

and calling each other by shrill, girlish nicknames. I admit that I never meet such people; the people I do occasionally meet are old, bachelor clergymen for whom their sexual may be a thorn in the flesh, who seem singularly devoted to the welfare of their often impoverished parishes. Even before Aids, homosexuality involved suffering and suffering often develops the ability to sympathise with others.

George Carey's personality has a steady rather than a dramatic pulling power. He recently said: "When I actually meet politicians, the Government, the Royal Family, members of the House of Lords and so on, they are remarkably ordinary people. When you get close to them, they are the same as my Aunt Ethel."

It is his nature to deal with people without too much regard for their trappings or for his own; he is an Aunt Ethel Archbishop himself, a

reliable friend rather than a spell-binding preacher, a quiet parish priest to the nation. He does not see other people as being particularly grand and does not at all wish to be thought of as grand himself. He is as comfortable in this persona as the

of Wales. Prince Charles has been considering his future relationship to the Church of England, of which he will become Supreme Governor. The *Daily Telegraph* has had a sight of the document. The Prince of Wales has felt some dissatisfaction with the Church of England; even this policy document is quoted as saying: "The Church I love has been swept away by pathetic, politically correct 'progressives'." That no doubt seems exaggerated, but the Prince's combination of conservatism with ecumenism reflects attitudes commoner in the pew than in the synod.

The Prince of Wales is important, even essential, to the future of the Church of England. He is the first heir to the throne since the Stuarts to take an intellectual interest in religion. Several monarchs have had a robust, simple faith, but he has something more developed than that. He has thought deeply about religion

and the best-mannered man in England, is his Duke of Devonshire, treats everyone as a duke. George

Charles treats everyone as his Aunt Ethel.

Just before Christmas, the Archbishop had a meeting with the Prince

of Wales.

Elizabeth Hurley with her companion Henry Dent-Brocklehurst

in Gloucestershire, has been telling friends that he plans to return permanently to Britain.

It was Henry who provided Liz with a shoulder to cry on after Hugh Grant was caught with a prostitute in his car of Sunset Boulevard; he has also been her companion in Los Angeles, where he runs a film company. But these crisp December mornings and high-flying birds appear to be wounding him back to Britain — and where Henry goes, you can be sure that Liz is not far behind. He has told friends that he will return to Britain this April.

P.H.S



A CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

Clinton's intentions for a second term remain elusive

our years into his presidency, and some even weeks after his re-election, Americans remain unsure about what Bill Clinton wants to achieve in his second term. Washington awaits an inaugural address next month in the hope that will end the uncertainty. Beyond noting that his speech would be "somewhat longer" than his first such delivery (words that will instil fear among those attending the ceremony), Mr Clinton seems content to bide his time and keep his own counsel.

The President could continue with the populist strategy that served him so well on the campaign trail. Thus he would concentrate on the ceremonial and symbolic aspects of his post, placing his political energy on sustaining economic growth and capturing the credit for it. At home he would adopt an essentially responsive position. He would allow the Republican Congress to formulate most domestic legislation — which he could then veto or not largely on the basis of public opinion polls. In foreign affairs, he would remain cautious in his personal engagement, keeping the promotion of American trade and the minimisation of military risks as his watchwords.

That was an enticing formula for candidate Clinton. But deprived of any future rendezvous with the American electorate, it may not be enough. Instead there is his place in history to be contemplated. He is a keen consumer of political biographies. So it is difficult to imagine this son of Oxford and Yale being without interest in what others have to say about him. As he will be just 54 when placed in enforced retirement, he will have to listen to it for years to come.

He might then adopt a more ambitious agenda. An obvious one exists if he is minded to co-operate with Republicans on Capitol Hill. He could enter serious negotiations to balance the budget. In so doing he could promote serious reforms of the

publicly funded healthcare systems — Medicare and Medicaid — which will otherwise soon run into severe financial difficulties. He could start the process of reinventing the social security programme which faces a demographic crisis when baby-boomers such as Mr Clinton start claiming their pensions. He could seek the title of "the Great Fixer": a President not much loved but highly effective.

However attractive such a scenario might seem, it would involve concessions to Speaker, Newt Gingrich, and the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott. It would be attacked by the liberal wing of the Democratic Party. Mr Clinton might feel safer accepting the traditional path taken by many of his predecessors: that of embracing international affairs and the role of statesman and peacemaker. That would necessitate a major shift in White House priorities. This may prove too taxing for a man who has been so committed to the detail of domestic policy. The world is not currently overburdened with conflicts that can be mitigated by presidential fiat.

So far Mr Clinton has given little indication of his planning. Nor have his recent appointments offered many clues. The selection of Erskine Bowles, a distinctly centrist figure, as White House Chief of Staff may appeal to Republicans. Alternatively, the elevation of Madeleine Albright might make most sense if the President intended to become more active in overseas affairs. The obvious influence and interests of Vice-President Al Gore could make the quest for popularity an all-pervasive factor. Quite possibly the President himself has not decided yet.

The United States and the wider world must hope that history weighs heavily on the President's mind. Four years of partisan gridlock and government by Gallup would do little for public policy.

CHARLES AND HIS CHURCH

Anglicans will welcome an involved but sensitive Prince

The Church of England has always been a delicate if surprisingly robust institution. It seeks to offer answers of reasonable clarity to fundamental questions while encouraging tolerance and diversity. That balancing act repeats itself in the fragile relationship between Crown and Canterbury, Crown and Church, Crown and congregation.

The monarch is expected to be Supreme Governor, but not govern: defender of the faith but not designer of it. It is little wonder that most occupants of the throne have found those aspects of constitutional monarchy that touch upon the political sphere easier in practice than those which encroach on matters spiritual.

The Prince of Wales has apparently decided to devote a larger proportion of his time to the Church of England. He has also signalled his frustration with recent reforms he believes have been driven through by "pathetic politically correct progressives". One immediate aspect of that additional energy is his enthusiasm for the proposed millennium village: a £123million proposal that would combine a 10,000-seat "super church" with a huge hotel designed to provide inexpensive accommodation for young people visiting London. To proceed, this project would require £50million in lottery funding.

This concentration on Anglicanism comes after a decade in which the Prince has displayed a broad and intense interest in spiritual issues. He has also taken particular care to familiarise himself with the worlds of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims. To his enormous annoyance, to which he is entitled, such activities have seen him stigmatised as some sort of New Age mystic.

adopting theological thinking on an *a la carte* basis. This is a particular irony, given the rather traditionalist opinions he has expressed on liturgical arguments.

In this new approach he would be wise to proceed gently and with some caution. His views will be scrutinised with special vigour by liberals, evangelicals and conservatives alike. It may indeed be the case that politically correct progressives exercise undue influence. If so that has been as much the fault of inactivity and indulgence among those who preferred the pre-existing faith as any conscious coup hatched by determined radicals. To describe all contemporary change within the Church, especially the introduction of women priests, as proceeding from trendy notions would be as harsh a misinterpretation as that from which the Prince suspects he himself has suffered.

Similarly, there will be heated debate about the millennium village. That concept proceeds from a thoroughly justified concern about the secular character of most celebrations planned so far for the turn of the century. The idea is bold and imaginative, but some will ask whether, in principle, Anglicans should accept lottery financing for their activities.

Most Anglicans will welcome greater involvement from Prince Charles. Given the formidable force he has offered to other causes that have captured his attention, the Church of England, which requires rather more love from rather more quarters than just St James's Palace, can only benefit from a more involved Prince. To maximise his influence he will need sensitivity. He should speak softly and not carry a big stick.

A GOOD SHELF-LIFE

One hundred and fifty years ago: a vintage year for the novel

The year 1847 was an *annus mirabilis* for the English novel. Becky Sharp was making her unscrupulous way up through the rich strata of early 19th-century society in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. In Dickens's new novel, *Dombey and Son*, the crusty head of a shipping house mourned the death of his little boy along with the whole nation.

On top of that, it was the year when all the three Brontë sisters launched themselves on the world as novelists — even though they were then still half-disguised as Currier, Ellis and Acton Bell. Charlotte's *Jane Eyre* bowled its readers over at once by giving sensible, adult conversations between women



and men; a few clucking voices suggested it was not fit for young ladies. Emily's *Wuthering Heights* knocked its readers out just as successfully; reviewers merely wrung their hands over its morbidity. Anne's story of the trials of a governess, *Agnes Grey*, quietly established itself.

Meanwhile Disraeli brought out the third book in his political trilogy, *Tancred*. Its story of a young man who abandons White's Club to go to Jerusalem and find a faith for himself was topical in a year when battle was being waged over whether a Jewish Member should sit in Parliament.

These six novels would have made a stunning shortlist for the 1847 Booker Prize. They would have led to some unhappy rows. The proto-feminists on the jury would have quarelled among themselves over the three Brontë girls. Gladstone — although he could

not bear Disraeli — would have given his vote to *Tancred*, since he was busy that year outraging voters in his Oxford constituency by supporting the Jewish Member. In the end, it would have been a choice between Dickens and Thackeray, the hearts rooting for *Dombey* and the heads prevailing.

Who among our own recent novelists will still be as much read as all these novels are now, in another 150 years? The question will not arise, since communication by then will probably be conducted entirely through the new medium of Euros. But if the written English language survives, there are a few candidates for that posterity.

Evelyn Waugh's *Sword of Honour* trilogy and Anthony Powell's *A Dance to the Music of Time* have already shown a good deal of staying power and both have the historical scope of the great Victorian novels. The extraordinary moral romances of Iris Murdoch could go on haunting later generations. Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities* tackles the life of New York with the panache and power of *Vanity Fair* — and perhaps deliberately makes that claim in its title.

Whatever future readers may think, readers today still long for novels such as those that erupted 150 years ago. All those six are still in print and selling briskly (well, perhaps *Tancred* is flagging). We could apply to them something Tennyson wrote in *The Princess* — also published in that amazing year 1847 — "How sad, how fresh, the days that are no more".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

i Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Justice done and seen to be done

From Sir Ludovic Kennedy

Sir, My Justice Latham is to be congratulated on his ruling ("Judge backs prisoners over interviews with media", December 20) that lay people seeking to correct alleged miscarriages of justice should be permitted to interview claimants in prison in addition to corresponding with them.

In the several cases, bar one, which I once investigated I would not have felt competent to pursue any without having first made sure that the claimants were available to speak to me in person. The exception was Timothy Evans who, having been hanged in error over the Rillington Place murders, was no longer available.

In correspondence only, however persuasive the documentation, one can never be certain that the claimant is telling the truth. In a personal interview there is a far better chance.

GUILTY men, I have found, are inclined to assert innocence with a show of outrage. The innocent, on the other hand, tend quietly to assume it. The guilty, too, shy away from discussing the evidence, while for the truly innocent it is the detailed evidence, given and suppressed, which is at the heart of their case.

When I asked one claimant if he was willing for me to look into his case, even if my findings were not in his favour, he agreed unhesitatingly. The guilty are apt not to agree or else do so reluctantly.

Incidentally, I was astonished to see that the published list of 14 members of the new Criminal Cases Review Commission, given in a parliamentary written answer by the Home Secretary on December 18 (details, early editions, December 20), does not contain a single lay campaigner in this field (eg. Chris Mullin, MP, David Jessel, Bob Woffinden, the journalist named in your December 20 report, Robert Kee and Paul Foot), with a proven record of success.

Yours etc,
LUDOVIC KENNEDY,
Ashdown, Avebury, Wiltshire.
December 27.

View on compensation

From Mr Frank Metcalfe

Sir, Once more an ex-prisoner of war of the Japanese pleads (letter, December 17) for further compensation for hardships suffered there (report, December 5).

Nowadays compensation has become all the rage. We have policemen in Liverpool securing compensation for doing their duty at a football tragedy (report, June 4), a murderer seeking compensation for inadequate medical support (report, December 13) and heaven knows how many more claims in the pipeline.

Whatever happened to British manhood? It wasn't exactly a picnic to be wounded, wet and sick in a dinghy in the North Sea (November 1940) after an interrupted bombing raid on Germany, followed by many months in hospital having my face rebuilt, but I'd have been ashamed to seek money for protecting my country or doing my duty.

I think, too, of my many colleagues who didn't have the luck I had. What of their compensation?

Yours truly,
FRANK METCALFE,
3 Blacksmiths Lane,
St Michael's, St Albans,
Hertfordshire.
December 20.

Fathers who smoke

From Lord Kilbracken

Sir, You report (December 17) that one in seven of all childhood cancers may have been caused by fathers who were smokers prior to conception. This figure was calculated by analysing statistics for three years in the Fifties, when you show a total of 1,952 such deaths, an average of 651 a year, of which 93 would therefore be attributable to smoking fathers.

In the relevant period there were some 800,000 live births a year, and over two thirds of male adults were smokers. It therefore follows that their habit may have been responsible for the death of one in every 5,400, at least, of their offspring, or 0.18 per cent.

This may be of reassurance to smoking fathers such as myself who have young children.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KILBRACKEN,
House of Lords.
December 19.

Quota hopping

From Mr Francis Deutsch

Sir, With reference to your report on fish quotas (December 21), a boat owner freely sells his licence. He uses a broker who has access to all relevant information. The buyer freely buys on the same basis. His catch is then limited by the same law, although he may be a Dutch or Spanish citizen. It is an open and perfect market.

Our Government and its more right-wing followers believe in the wisdom of the market. What, then, is the rationale for their objection to quota hopping?

Yours faithfully,
F. DEUTSCH,
14 West View, NW4.
December 26.

The place for Catholic schools within modern morality

From Sir David Goodall

Sir, In his sympathetic piece today, "religious schools against the world", William Rees-Mogg draws a critical dividing line between schools that teach a morality based on religious belief and those that do not.

The problem is that a morality derived from religious belief carries no conviction unless that religious belief is perceived as central to the lives of those who teach it. There is therefore an equally critical dividing line between schools which are based on a community of living faith and schools where religious belief and practice are in effect optional extras to be left largely to the chaplain.

In Britain today, the believing Christian is a deviant in a society where the Christian world-view — and a *fortiori* the Roman Catholic world-view — is regarded as quaint, if not actually perverse, liberal agnosticism is the norm. And since there is a social dimension to belief, what we find credible depends as much on whether the majority of people with whom we live take it seriously as on whether it is true. Humanly speaking, a Christian world-view loses its plausibility, even for the believer, unless it is fully shared and lived by people whose intellectual capacity commands respect and whose Christian lifestyle carries conviction.

For the Christian or Catholic parent, the true value of a monastic school is that it is centred on a community which meets that requirement in a way which is becoming almost unique. Whatever its other advantages, I doubt whether Eton would wish to make the same claim.

For the Headmaster of Prior Park College

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GOODALL,
Greystones, Ampleforth, York.
December 23.

Britain's diverse faiths

From Mr Karim Chowdhury

Sir, I heartily congratulate Mr Israr Khan on speaking out and reminding the Muslim children at the school where he teaches whom they worship (report, December 19). To a secular society it may not matter what people do as part of their faith, as all faiths to these secularists hold no truth. However, with us Muslims, following the truth is the primary essence of our faith and any contamination is strongly shunned.

Thus we are unapologetically very obstinate in following Islam, and no matter how emotional and nostalgic this Pagan/Christian festival of Christmas may be to some, to Muslims it is a continuation of practices of falsehood and lies.

I disagree with the Provost of Birmingham, the Very Reverend Peter Berry, that we live in a "Christian country" (early editions, December 19); rather we live in a democratic country, and tolerance does not imply sharing religious practices of other

families to be accepted by the "Establishment" — reasons suggested in your report (December 21) — might also play a part in some cases. However, in over 11 years of headship of Catholic independent schools, my overwhelming impression is that parental choices are usually based on more sensible and discerning criteria.

Parents are interested in the religious teaching, spiritual life and moral values of a Catholic school and want to assess how well these are lived out in the school community. Also, they want to exercise their right to scrutinise teaching standards, facilities and results (of which league tables are one of the helpful indications). Usually they have to think their way through complex and competing considerations to arrive at a decision which they hope will serve the needs of all the family members.

Coducation might, therefore, be preferred to single-sex schooling so that in severely busy lives, precious holiday time and school visits can be the same for sons and daughters. The distance and time taken from home to school are almost always crucial, as cost, and so the question of day or boarding (weekly or full boarding) comes into focus. Furthermore, it is increasingly less common for both parents to be Catholic.

Despite all these factors, there is still, in most areas, a sufficient variety of vigorous and very attractive Catholic independent schools to meet the majority of parents' needs and aspirations.

Yours faithfully,
GILES MERCER,
Prior Park College, Bath.
December 21.

From Mr John Mills

Sir, William Rees-Mogg makes a good case, but missed one obvious and simple point: access.

For us to have sent our son to Ampleforth would make it hard for us to see him from term to term. The driving time from Berkshire to North Yorkshire is up to six hours — a pilgrimage by anyone's standards. House plays, school matches, those impromptu visits that maintain contact and continuity with your child and the school, would be lost.

Much more important for us, as a practising Catholic family with a son at Eton, is the opportunity to take him with us to Mass every Sunday. In this

faiths but respecting the rights of others to practise their ways whether we think these practices are true or not.

Yours sincerely,
KARIM CHOWDHURY,
64 Warren Street, WL.
December 19.

From Mr Om P. Midha

Sir, Disrespect shown by a Muslim teacher for the Christian culture at a carol concert in a school at Birmingham highlights the potential damage to race relations which the thoughtless action of a religious zealot can inflict.

As a teacher he should have known that his pupils would benefit through understanding of diverse faiths. Perhaps he should have read the speech made by the Prince of Wales (letters, December 21).

Yours sincerely,
OM MIDHA,
1 Woodbine Avenue,
Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.
December 23.

over 100,000 women have been cared for. We suggest that this is likely to be the experience of the vast majority of our midwives and obstetric colleagues in the UK.

It is vital that midwives, general practitioners and obstetricians work together with the mother to determine what is in the best interests of herself and her baby. We trust that we will never find ourselves faced with the need to approach a court of law on a matter of clinical care.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON M. STIRRAT,
University of Bristol,
Department of
Obstetrics and Gynaecology,
St Michael's Hospital, Bristol.
December 26.

From Mr Brian Parker

Sir, I cannot understand why it might be considered entirely proper for me to express opinions on ballet, opera and the arts, for example, on emotional grounds, thereby possibly affecting the livelihood and wellbeing of many in those fields, but were I to do so on the matter of handgun legislation, I would be castigated.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM NORFOLK

December 29: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning. The Bishop of Norwich preached the Sermon.

CLARENCE HOUSE December 28: The Lady Angela Oswald has succeeded Dame Frances Campbell-Preston as Lady-in-Waiting to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Otto Kotzebue, navigator, Tallin, Estonia, 1787; Rudyard Kipling, poet and novelist, Nobel laureate 1907, Bombay, 1865; Stephen Leacock, humorist, writer and economist, Swannmore, Hampshire, 1869; Sir Carol Reed, film director, Putney, 1906.

DEATHS: Jean Baptiste van Helmont, chemist, Vilvorde, near Brussels, 1644; Robert Boyle, chemist and physicist, London, 1691; John Needham, priest and man of science, Brussels, 1781; Sir William White Baker, explorer in Africa, Newton Abbott, Devon, 1893; Amelia Bloomer, campaigner for women's rights, 1894; Rufus Isaacs, 1st Marquess of Reading, Lord Chief Justice 1913-21, Viceroy of India 1921-26, London, 1935; Romain Rolland, novelist and biographer, Nobel laureate 1915, Vezelay, France, 1944; Alfred North Whitehead, philosopher and mathematician, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1947; Trygve Lie, first Secretary-General of the UN 1946-52, Oslo, Norway, 1968.

Transvaal became a republic with Paul Kruger as the first president, 1880.

A petition addressed to Queen Victoria, signed by 1,000,000 women, appealing for public houses to be closed on Sundays, was handed to the Home Secretary, 1887.

Russia officially became the USSR Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1922.

Church news

Appointments

The Rev Simon Richard Gales, Curate of Houghton, Carlisle diocese to be Vicar of Lindow, Chester diocese.

The Rev Clive Roger Evans, Curate of Barton Seagrave with Warkton, to be Vicar of Long Buckby with Warkton, Peterborough diocese.

The Rev Christopher Gower, formerly Priest-in-charge, Viesley, to be Rector, united benefice of St Marylebone & Holy Trinity, St Marylebone (London).

The Rev Michael Hills, Assistant Curate, St Nicholas, Hull, to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Newington w St Mary and St Peter, Dairoycotes (York).

The Rev Andrew James Wadsworth, Vicar in the Honiton Team, Exeter, to be Vicar of Bulkington with Shilton and Ansty, Coventry diocese.

Rot is stopped at historic Civil War mansion

An end is in sight
at Poltimore
House, reports
Marcus Binney

AN HISTORIC Devon mansion, where the treaty ending the Civil War was signed in 1646, is to be rescued from years of vandalism and neglect.

Planners have watched helplessly as the Tudor ceilings, early Georgian plaster work and Adam-style decoration of Poltimore House, near Exeter, have crumbled and rotted. Under company law, the property fell forfeit to the Crown when the owners, Trolleycraft Ltd, failed to send in an annual return.

Though water was pouring through the roof, planners were unable to use their powers to serve a repairs order on the Grade II* listed building as such notices cannot be served on the Crown Commissioners. Alan Payne, of East Devon District Council, said: "I was regularly being approached by people ready and willing to restore the house."

Though the Crown Commissioners had expressed willingness to hand over the property to a suitable restoring purchaser, stalemate arose because the Skipton Building Society had a charge on the property estimated at £1 million resulting from a £500,000 mortgage on which no interest had ever been paid. As the house rotted, the chances of the money being recovered looked ever more distant. This month, however, the Buildings at Risk Trust, a charity specialising in the



Alan Payne surveys the result of vandalism at Poltimore House. English Heritage estimates have put the cost of restoration at £1.8 million

rescue of derelict properties, persuaded the Skipton Building Society to relinquish its charge on the property in return for a payment of £60,000. The society is likely to pursue the directors of Trolleycraft for further funds.

Alan Birnrose, chairman of the trust, said: "We could not have done this without the local planners. East Devon District Council have been approached by people ready and willing to restore the house. They deserve the top heritage rating."

Mr Payne added: "With the help of English Heritage we have spent £50,000 on emergency repairs, propping up ceilings to prevent their collapse. Vandalism was a severe problem but now the house has close neighbours with very large dogs and the police keep a constant watch."

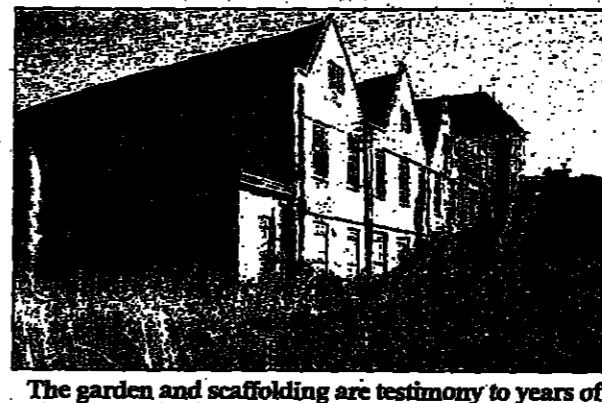
Before that the house had been regularly looted and the floor of the saloon had been ripped out by New Age travellers for firewood. After the theft of all the banisters of the main staircase, valuable fix-

tures including Queen Anne fireplaces had been removed for safekeeping.

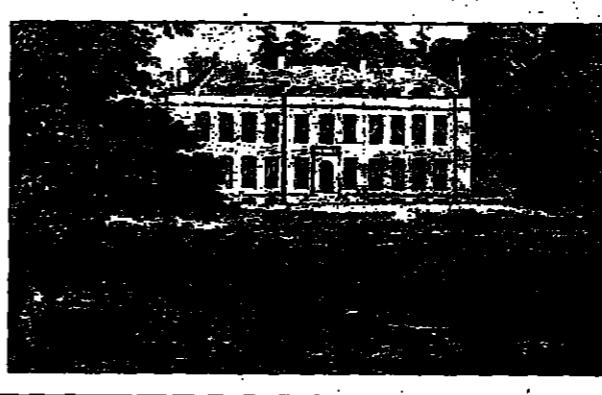
Poltimore's decline, like that of many large country houses, began with requisitioning in the Second World War. After use as a convalescent home for American airmen it became a nursing home and then an annexe of the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, closing in the 1970s.

The oldest parts of the house date to the early 1500s. At Poltimore, Sir Thomas Fairfax, who, with Cromwell, defeated Charles I at the Battle of Naseby, negotiated and signed the Treaty of Exeter which effectively ended the Civil War. In 1631 Sir George Bampfylde was created the 1st Lord Poltimore.

The house has a handsome stucco Georgian front overlooking parkland. Behind is a gabled 17th-century wing enclosed by overgrown gardens. Inside, there is fine plasterwork dating from four centuries. English Heritage estimates have put the cost of restoration at £1.8 million.



The garden and scaffolding are testimony to years of neglect and a far cry from the scene in 1927, below.



The splendour of the lounge hall during the 1920s

Birthdays today

MRI A.M. Allen, former chairman, UKAEA, 72; Mr Gordon Banks, footballer, 59; Professor Sir Roy Calne, PRS, surgeon, 61; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 83; Mr Geraint Talbot Davies, Controller, BBC Wales, 53; Mr Bo Diddley, guitarist and singer, 68; General Sir David Fraser, 76; The Hon Sir Archibald Hamilton, MP, 55; Lord Harrington, 89; Sir John Houghton, former chief executive, Meteorological Office, 65; Lord Howick of Glendale, 59; Professor Dame Rosaline Horwitz, microbiologist, 67; Mr Timothy Mo,

writer, 46; the Right Rev Peter Not, Bishop of Norwich, 63; Lady Oppenheimer, theorician, 70; Mrs Gwen Randall-Head, Framlington College, 46; Sir Albert Robinson, 81; Professor A.H.R. Rowe, former Dean, Dental Studies, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, 71; Professor Robert Shackleton, FRS, geologist, 87; the Duke of Somerset, 44; Lord Terrington, 81; Sir David Willocks, former Director, Royal College of Music, 77; Mr Clifford Williams, theatrical director, 70.

Latest wills

Florence Mildred Evans, of Stoke, near Nantwich, Cheshire, left £622,221 net, £10,000 each to RSPCA, NSPCC, Cancer Research, St David's Church, Oakenholt, the Salvation Army, RNIB and St Mary's Church, Acton, Nantwich.

Alfred Bernard Lacey, of Wragby, Lincoln, left £579,285 net. He left £5,000 to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance Charitable Trust.

Philippa Jane Beatrice Garnett, of North Runcton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, left £1,112,490 net.

He left £5,000 to the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research and to All Saints' Church, North Euston; and £2,000 to the National Trust.



Great crested grebe

As the lakes freeze over, many ducks and other water birds go down to the sea. Great crested grebes find quiet estuaries in which to feed, and even kingfishers will head for the coast in severe weather. Waxwings are continuing to come in from the Continent, and a flock of 200 was seen in Edinburgh last week, but there is no sign yet of an invasion on the scale of last year's. Great grey shrikes have been reported in a number of places: these hook-billed winter visitors will sometimes impale beetles and other prey on thorns as a food store. Water plants combat the frost in different ways. Water lilies survive as fat underground stems, while starwort and duckweed stay down under the ice to warmer water. Some frogs hibernate in the mud at the bottom of a pond, breathing lightly through their skin. Hedgehogs sleep in holes lined with moss and leaves, sometimes using an old wasp's nest in the ground. However, they may wake up if the winter turns milder, and then need to feed on slugs and snails. Small tortoiseshell butterflies sleep in shadowy corners in sheds: the dark underside of their wings makes them hard to see. DJM

Nature notes

Marriage

Mr P. Joarder
and Miss C.H. Stokes

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 28, at Lee Priory, of Mr Peter Joarder, younger son of Mr and Mrs R.R. Joarder, of Woodford Wells, Essex, and Miss Clare Stokes, only daughter of Mr and Mrs B.M. Stokes, of Woodford Green, Essex.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Anita Bourne, Mr Michael Heales, Mr Chris Ellis, Mr Gavin Flynn, Mr Paul Alexander, Mr Jason Davies and Lieutenant Andrew Stacey, RN. Mr Clive Bird was best man.

The reception was held at Lee Priory and the honeymoon will be spent in the Orient.

University news

Manchester

Appointments
Alan Reeser, at present Reader in Medical Informatics at the university, to be Professor of Medical Informatics in the Department of Computer Science from January 1, 1997.

Martin J. Humphries, has been granted the title of Professor of Biochemistry in the School of Biological Sciences from December 1, 1996, during the continuance of his appointment as Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow.

Will Hutton, Editor of *The Observer* newspaper, to be Visiting Professor of Economics in the Manchester Business School for three years from November 1, 1996.

Honorary professors

C B Jones, Director, Applications Division at Harlequin Ltd and former Professor of Computing Science at the university, to be Honorary Professor of Computer Science for three years from December 1, 1996.

Nathan Efron, Professor of Clinical Optometry in the Department of Optometry and Vision Studies, UMIST, to be Honorary Professor of Ophthalmology for three years from December 1, 1996.

Stuart John Lewis, Director of Engineering at British Aerospace, Warton, to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Principles of Engineering Design (Aerospace Division) in the Manchester School of Engineering for five years from October 1, 1996.

Glenn William Birchley, AIMS Design Manager at GEC Plessey Semiconductors, Oldham, to be Honorary Visiting Professor of Principles of Engineering Design (Electrical Division) in the Manchester School of Engineering for five years from October 1, 1996.

Colin Shaw, Visiting Fellow in the European Institute for the Media and previously Honorary Lecturer in the School of Education, to be Honorary Visiting Professor in the School of Education for three years from November 1, 1996.

Denis J Loveridge, Simon Fellow and former manager of PREST's involvement in UK Technology foresight Programmes, to be Honorary Visiting Professor in PREST for three years from November 1, 1996.

Richard V. Adams, Reader and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Optometry and Vision Sciences, UMIST, to be Honorary Reader in Ophthalmology for three years from December 1, 1996.

Charles R M Hay, Consultant Haematologist and Director of the Manchester Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centre at Manchester Royal Infirmary and former Senior Lecturer in Haematology at Liverpool, to be Honorary Senior Lecturer in Medicine for three years from November 1, 1996.

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It is good to give thanks to the Lord, for his many endowments for our service, for those who were redeemed by the Lord. Psalm 107:12

BIRTHS

JONNSON - On 20th December in Hereford County Hospital, Hereford, to Mr and Mrs Paul (John and Linda) Jonnsen, Victoria Natalie Elizabeth.

LOVETT - On December 21st, to Tom and Janice, a son, (William George).

DEATHS

ARCHER - Heather McPhail, suddenly and peacefully at home, Belgrave, Edinburgh. Beloved wife of Michael and much loved mother of Sophie and Michael, much loved friend by her grandchildren and nieces and nephews. Funeral private. Family funeral.

BROWN - Annabel Rose (Betty), 80, died on December 19th, 1996, aged 80. She died after a long illness, peacefully in her sleep, surrounded by her family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 21st.

DOWNS - Peter Donald, suddenly and peacefully in Cambridge surrounded by his family. Funeral service at St John's Church, Cambridge, on December 21st.

EVANS - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St John's Church, Cambridge, on December 23rd.

GARRETT - Elizabeth Marjorie Buchanan (née Moore) on 26th December 1996, peacefully at home, Belgrave, Edinburgh. Beloved wife of Alec Garrett and widow of Russell AE Webb. Private cremation, Belgrave, Edinburgh.

HARRIS - Harold, 82, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

HILL - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

HOBSON - Daphne (née Hobson), 86, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in her sleep, surrounded by her family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

HODGSON - Harold, 82, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

HORN - Margaret Elizabeth, 80, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in her sleep, surrounded by her family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

KELLY - Michael, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

LAWRENCE - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

MCINTOSH - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

MURRAY - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

NEIL - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

ROBERTSON - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

SCOTT - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

SMITH - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

THOMAS - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

WHITE - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

WILSON - John, 72, died on December 21st, 1996, peacefully in his sleep, surrounded by his family and friends. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Edinburgh, on December 23rd.

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OBITUARIES

SIR ROBERT DOUGLAS

Sir Robert Douglas, OBE, President of Tilbury Douglas, died at his home, Dunston Hall, Staffordshire, on December 7 aged 97. He was born at Breconside, Durriside, Dumfriesshire, on February 2, 1899.

In a life devoted to the construction industry, Robert Douglas founded and developed a firm that built factories for wartime aircraft production; airfields for American bombers; steelworks in the immediate post-war period; sections of Britain's motorway network in the 1950s and 1960s and the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in the 1970s. From small beginnings he created a construction company which had a reputation at home and abroad.

His father died early in Robert McCallum Douglas's life and his doughty Presbyterian mother brought up a family of four children in a farming community. He served in the First World War in the Highland Light Infantry and the Cameronian Regiment. Wounded in France, he was invalided home to Scotland before returning to the Western Front in the last months of the war.

When it was over he had two years' legal training with a Dumfries solicitor. In 1921, a Scottish contractor, Andrew Blair, wished to establish a civil engineering contracting company in Birmingham and was seeking a company secretary. Douglas was appointed to this post and helped Blair to set up and run his business. It was soon discovered that he had an aptitude for civil engineering estimating and since Blair, Lyle & Co was a small undertaking, he became involved in site supervision.

When Blair fell ill, Douglas left the business and founded a public works company during the depths of a severe recession. From an initial capital of £3,000, the business developed into a group of more than 30 companies with operations throughout the UK and overseas.

Douglas was one of the first to recognise that the future of the construction industry lay in mechanisation, and Robert M. Douglas (Contractors) always invested in construction plant on a scale comparable to



that of much larger firms. As the Second World War loomed, the company undertook the civil engineering work for an aircraft "shadow" factory (a number of which were set up at the insistence of Lord Beaverbrook) to maximise aircraft production for war needs) for the Austin Motor Company at Longbridge, Birmingham, and subsequently for the Nuffield organisation at Castle Bromwich.

Later in the war, with American strategic bomber forces operating from Britain Douglas's firm completed contracts for the construction of

airfields for the USAF in the East Midlands at very short notice. Because of the break-neck speed at which this work had to be done, many of these began without a single drawing, contract clause, or even a specification; but Robert Douglas was known to be a contractor of such integrity that the Government could start spending money with his firm without the fear of being cheated.

In the years of the construction boom after the Second World War, the company built two template works in South Wales at Trostree and Velindre, which were the largest in Europe at the time. Those years also saw the beginning of the motorway programme and Douglas's firm completed sections of the M1, M4, M40, M42, M50 and M54.

In 1953 the company was floated and Robert Douglas used his capital derived from the flotation, to purchase the Dunstall estate, near Burton upon Trent, which belonged to the Hardy family at that time. He assumed the role of village squire and carried out major alterations to the various properties in Dunstall for the benefit of the people living there.

In 1956, he was appointed

OBE in recognition of his contribution to the control of the construction industry during the war years, through his membership of the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works Midland Regional Joint Advisory Committee. In 1976 he was knighted for services to export following the award to Rapid Metal Developments, a company in the Douglas Group, of the Queen's Award for Industry for Export, and the completion of the National Exhibition Centre in that year. The company also built the Birmingham Arena, the International Convention Centre, and the Birmingham Symphony Hall.

Douglas established construction companies overseas: in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and subsidiaries of the construction equipment division in Australia, New Zealand, France, Spain, Ireland, Thailand, Korea, and Taiwan.

He became president of the Staffordshire Agricultural Society in 1979 and his ability as a contractor was particularly useful to it when its main exhibition hall burnt down in the year of his presidency. Even though he was 80, he was at the showground by 7am the following day to instruct on clearance operations and to advise on its speedy reconstruction.

He was awarded an honorary doctorate of science by the University of Aston in Birmingham in 1977. The company had, for many years, been closely associated with the university, providing on-the-job training for civil engineering and other students.

Douglas was chairman of Burton Graduate Medical Centre from 1969 to 1981, overseeing the fundraising necessary for its completion in 1972. He also provided finance to help the centre to buy computerised equipment.

The company he founded became known as the Douglas Group and grew worldwide, surviving the cycles of boom and recession so characteristic of the vulnerable construction industry. In October 1991, a merger was arranged with the Tilbury Group and Douglas became president of the new combined organisation.

In 1992 he married Millicent Irene Tomkys Morgan. She died in 1993; he is survived by a son and a daughter.

INFANTA MARÍA CRISTINA DE BORBÓN Y BATTENBERG

The Infanta María Cristina de Borbón y Battenberg died in Madrid on December 23 aged 85. She was born on December 12, 1911.

A WOMAN richly endowed with poise of bearing, with handsome features and an imperious build, the Infanta María Cristina de Borbón y Battenberg was a living bridge to another, older age. Yet she was blessed with a sunny disposition which enabled her to surmount the misfortunes which overtook her family in the early part of her life, and she was able to adapt to family life in another country, once it became clear that life for her and her family would no longer be tenable in her own.

The great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria, she was the fourth issue of King Alfonso XIII of Spain and Queen Victoria Eugenia. The aunt of the present Spanish King, Juan Carlos, she was the younger sister of his father, Don Juan, Count of Barcelona, a man who was never to sit on the throne to which he was heir.

Tumultuous political events in Spain early in the life of the young Infanta sent her, along with the rest of her family, into exile in Italy. The proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic on April 14, 1931, led her father, King Alfonso, to believe that a departure from his kingdom was the most prudent course to take for the safety of his family.

Sections within the Republican alliance, fuelled by such publications as *Alfonso XIII Unmasked*, by Vicente Blasco Ibáñez, had made of him a bogeyman for what was regarded by his political enemies as a corrupt system, and the King was anxious to avoid an outbreak of bloodshed among his subjects.

Aged only 20, María Cristina began life afresh in a new, but not inhospitable, land. She was a considerable beauty, and seldom failed to cause a stir at social gatherings with her fair hair, stylishly worn, her limpid blue eyes, and her vivacious conversation. Nine years later, at 29, she married Enrique Eugenio Mariano Cinciano, the Count of Mariano, whose family owned the Cinzano distilleries. While the Spanish Royal



Family continued to live in Rome, the Infanta moved to her matrimonial home in Turin. The marriage, always comfortable, was to last for 28 years. In 1968, the Count succumbed to an inflammation of some serious injuries he had sustained while on safari in Mozambique some years earlier.

Four daughters were, however, born to the couple, and María Cristina always took pride in the fact that they were equally at home in Italy and in Spain. Her pride of course, always lay firmly embedded in her limitless discretion. It was under her influence, for example, that her husband refused the title of "Duke", offered to him by the Italian Royal Household, on the ground that the title of "Count" was more "circumspect". In such matters she was seldom wrong.

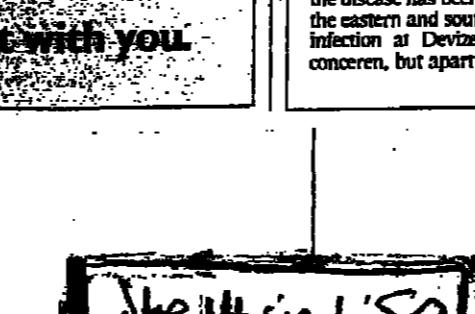
Maria Cristina devoted her life to a variety of charitable works, and she was particularly tireless in her contributions to associations for the support of cancer research. Two days before Christmas, however, on the occasion of the birthday of the Countess of Barcelona — her brother Don Juan's wife — she died in Madrid of a heart attack, but was buried at her husband's family crypt in Turin, with the entire Spanish Royal Family in attendance.

She is survived by her four daughters.

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COST OF CATTLE DISEASE
£224,000 COMPENSATION
TO FARMERS
OVER 30,000 ANIMALS
SLAUGHTERED

Since the present severe visitation of foot-and-mouth disease began to afflict the English countryside in the middle of October more than 30,000 head of live-stock have been slaughtered, and the compensation payable by the Ministry of Agriculture to farmers for their losses so far amounts to about £224,000. But the policy of relentlessly stamping out the disease wherever it appears has prevented an infection of a particularly virulent type from running riot among the country's livestock, and it now appears reasonable to hope that the worst of the scourge is past. Much will depend on a continuation of the admirable cooperation of farmers in promptly notifying any suspected outbreak. The present series of outbreaks began in Norfolk on October 16, and since then 153 have occurred. Excepting small outbreaks in Northumberland and Cheshire, the disease has been substantially confined to the eastern and southern counties. An area of infection at Devizes is now causing some concern, but apart from this there are signs

ON THIS DAY
December 30, 1937

The burning carcasses of slaughtered cattle lighting up the sky of East Anglia was a sight that neither their former owners nor passers-by were likely ever to forget

that the incidence of the disease is abating. Up to date there have been slaughtered 8,651 cattle, 15,144 sheep, and 6,537 pigs. Serious as the outbreak is it does not compare with the experience of 1921, when the animals slaughtered included 69,250 cattle, 26,170 sheep, and 33,304 pigs and the carcasses piled up to farmers amounted to £1,998,211. The individual farmer who sees the carcasses of his slaughtered cattle going up in smoke may find it hard to realize that the policy of slaughter and compensation is best, but in the light of existing knowledge this undoubtedly is so. The drastic methods adopted here keep the bulk of the country's livestock free from

infection. In Continental countries where foot-and-mouth disease is now razing, and where animals are not slaughtered, the separate outbreaks are numbered not in hundreds but in scores of thousands and the economic loss to those countries is incalculable. In France, for instance, there were about 90,000 outbreaks between July and the middle of November, and no compensation is payable there to the farmer who suffers loss through the death or the inevitable decline in value of stock affected. The expert advisers of the Minister of Agriculture believe that there is overwhelming evidence that foot-and-mouth disease was introduced into Norfolk in 1937 from the Continent by migratory birds, principally starlings. The outbreaks began when the mass migrations were at their height, and the type of infection, the areas affected, and the way in which the disease spread leave little doubt that it was carried by birds. When the first outbreaks were confirmed in Norfolk farmers spoke of having seen their fields infested a few days before by starlings. The recent spread of the infection to Wilshire is believed to be due to migratory birds having resorted to animal feeding-troughs. The theory that the disease is imported by birds is now being made the subject of further research.

FOOTBALL: BEASANT CLEARS WAY FOR LIVERPOOL TO INCREASE LEADERSHIP OF FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

Barnes provides bright long-range forecast

Southampton 0
Liverpool 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

WITH the sands of time trickling away in the last game of football 1996, a goal struck, audaciously by John Barnes, capitalising on an error from David Beasant, put Liverpool five points clear in the FA Carling Premiership and confined Southampton to second from bottom place.

Such a goal erroneously described as a fluke by Barnes himself, does nothing more than confirm how capricious are the slings and arrows of fortune, in a season that is proving devilishly hard to predict. It could be the goal that come May of 1997, brings the championship back to Liverpool. It could also, although on yesterday's form that would be cruel, put Southampton out of the Premiership just as they are about to start to build a proper stadium for the modern game.

Buoyant Barnes 23
Steve McManaman 23

For long spells at The Dell, a decaying arena which holds on to a ferociously intense atmosphere, Southampton actually played above the standard one would be champions. "We have given Liverpool six points this year," said Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager.

"You've got to feel for the goalkeeper. Even someone of his experience must feel the hurt as much as a 17-year-old, and it's the story of our season — we pass it about, and we then make daft mistakes like that, shooting ourselves in the foot. I know there isn't a player born who does not make a mistake ... but that wasn't what I said in the dressing-room after the game."

The mistake? It was breath-taking in its carelessness. Beasant had played quite well, had spread his giant frame high and low to deprive Robbie Fowler of earlier chances. There was no threat to him or his goal in the 27th minute when he chased a ball to the right of his penalty area. His simple intent was to keep that ball in play, to prevent a corner; but he hacked it



James, the Liverpool goalkeeper, is well placed to make a comfortable save from a diving header by Watson, the Southampton forward. Photograph: Julian Herbert

hurriedly downfield. It fell to, in the words of both managers, arguably the one player on the field who would instantly despatch it 43 yards into the net before the desperate Beasant, scrambling and diving across his line, could

admitted, "We were atrocious in the first half, we could put two passes together."

That was because of Southampton, a team with Claus Lundekvam able to strike purposefully from the back, with Eyal Berkovic, the experienced Israeli international, making the play with his intuitive passes. And a cameo of what was happening to Liverpool, what was stalling them, was the contest between Steve McManaman and his marker Ulrich Van Gobbel.

Van Gobbel is from Surinam via Holland, and he has the acceleration of a sprinter to cope with England's finest. His simple intent was to keep that ball in play, to prevent a corner; but he hacked it

to the pitch of the game, and

stifled by Sheffield Wednesday's Peter Atherton and Leicester City's Colin Hill.

His manager, Roy Evans, suggested that the man-marking is not so much a problem to McManaman, as to his colleagues. "It's not only about Macca, the other players are frightened to give him the ball when he's tight marked. We've got to put the ball into his feet; he'll get through in the end."

Until that strange goal, that terrible reward, in the 100th game Beasant has started for Southampton, and the 300th league game for Liverpool by Barnes, no one got through.

Fowler, his sore ankle hit

very early on, wasted an

opening in the twelfth minute when, from Thomas' pass, he tried an angled shot. Le Tissier came on to produce nonchalant venom with a shot from 25 yards, but James, though surprised by the power of it, emphasised his international claims.

Moments later Le Tissier, wonderfully inventive, flicked the ball over the shoulder of Ruddock, was obstructed and, taking the free kick himself, was denied again by James. That goalkeeper then excelled himself, stretching elastically along the ground to deflect a goal-bound shot from Ostenstad.

In the second half, Berkovic showed instant control and a wonderful turn, but saw David James save his shot. Le Tissier came on to produce nonchalant venom with a shot from 25 yards, but James, though surprised by the power of it, emphasised his international claims.

Moments later Le Tissier, wonderfully inventive, flicked the ball over the shoulder of Ruddock, was obstructed and, taking the free kick himself, was denied again by James. That goalkeeper then excelled himself, stretching elastically along the ground to deflect a goal-bound shot from Ostenstad.

Barnes, and Evans, and the

cheeky young men, McManaman and Fowler, wished everyone a happy new year. Souness, asked if there were injuries, responded:

"Broken hearts. But my philosophy is if you feel sorry for yourself, there's absolutely nothing in life for you. My players will be ready for the next match against Wimbledon, and I hope there are no gifts this time."

SOUTHAMPTON (3-1-2) D Beasant, N McDonald, C Lumbard, P Benali, Uvan Gobbel, S Watson, H Hughes, A Nelson, R Storer, M Robinson, E Berkovic — E Ostenstad, G Watson (sub: M Le Tissier, 57)

LIVERPOOL (3-1-2) D James — M Whorf, N Ruddock, P Babu — S Björneby — S McManaman, S Colmey (sub: P McManaman, T Björneby), S Colmey (sub: P Björneby, 70), R Fowler, Referee: S Dunn

Clough shines as Forest's loan star

Leicester City 2
Nottingham Forest 2

By PAT GIBSON

FRANK CLARK may yet hold the key to Nottingham Forest's chances of surviving in the FA Carling Premiership. The manager who resigned just before Christmas because he felt there was nothing more he could do for them, is now expected to take over at Manchester City and one of the first things he might have to do there is decide whether to let Nigel Clough rejoin Forest on a permanent basis.

How much that would mean to the side anchored at the foot of the Premiership table was abundantly clear at Filbert Street on Saturday, when Forest twice hit back to equalise in a pulsating East Midlands derby.

Clough was the central figure and, if his finishing had been of the same consistent quality as his passing, Forest could well have won a league game for only the third time this season.

Stuart Pearce, whose first decision as caretaker-manager was to take Clough on a month's loan, left no one in any doubt that he would like to keep him. "I have spent a lot of time playing with Nigel," he said. "I know his abilities and his character and I think he would be an asset to the club."

The Forest supporters obviously felt the same way as they sang "Nigel's coming home", but unfortunately life is not that simple at the City Ground these days. A permanent move depends on any number of issues, such as the impending takeover of the club that led Clark's hands in the transfer market, the identity of Manchester City's next manager — "it could be Frank Clark, who knows?" Pearce said — and the fact that Pearce himself has agreed to combine the jobs of player, captain and manager only until mid-January.

Clough, for his part, looked delighted to be back in familiar territory after the wasted years at Liverpool and Manchester. He had been unchallenged during the 4-0 drubbing by Manchester

United on Boxing Day, but he was as alert as ever yesterday in setting up a chance that Campbell squandered and then showing how it should be done by scoring crisply from Campbell's flick for Forest's first equaliser.

Leicester had taken an early lead when Heskey had been from a free kick and then threatened to overpower Forest after they had changed their system to allow Heskey to partner Claridge up front. They went ahead again when Heskey held off three defenders before sending in Izett for another well-taken goal in the 63rd minute, and only three minutes remained when Cooper forced in Forest's second goal from Allen's corner.

Martin O'Neill, the Leicester manager, was not too disappointed. "I thought we were terrific in terms of attitude and application, considering that we were down to the bare bones with only one more senior player available apart from the 16 we had on the field and the substitutes," he said.

This was the start of the second half of the season. We picked up 22 points from 19 games in the first half and if we can get another 22 from 19 it will hopefully be enough to keep us up."

Pearce looked far less drained by the passion of the afternoon, despite the pressure of juggling his dual role and the fact that Forest are facing an even more demanding test with only 14 points in the bag so far. He did, however, admit that he is finding life very difficult.

Mentally, it is very exhausting because you can't stop thinking about football," he said. "You sit at home at night and write down a team and that leads on to another team and in the end you've got ten teams scattered across your living room floor."

He did not need to add that Clough would be in every one of them.

LEICESTER CITY (4-1-3-1): K Keller — S Gulyani, S Parker, M McDonald, N Williams, J Clark, G Parker, E Heskey — S Clarke, M Coates, R Heskey, P Clark, S Clarke, S Gulyani, M McDonald, D Lyons, G J. Wilson (sub: C Allen, 78) — D Saunders, K Campbell. Referee: K Burge.

Arsenal guns silenced by Villa revival

Brian Glanville sees Arsène Wenger's team make do with a 2-2 draw after an epic struggle at Highbury

Bergkamp, still in irresistible form, sent Wright through again. Wright tacked round Bosnich, but Scimeca raced back to clear off the line.

A couple of minutes later, Bergkamp, taking a pass from Patrick Vieira, a dominant decisive force in midfield up to half-time, went by Staunton to shoot that Bosnich kept off with his legs.

Had Villa gone three or four goals down, which would hardly have been unfair to them, would they have come out for the second half so full of fire and running? Would Arsenal have lost

their grip on the midfield, would Bergkamp and Vieira have largely disappeared?

Paul Merson, who would eventually restore Arsenal's lead, thought: "We kept going ... in the second half, though he added, "We didn't even get started."

What he plainly meant was that, while Arsenal did lose their grasp, they were still physically capable. Well might he say of Dwight Yorke, the Villa striker, "he didn't get a kick in the first half, I don't think. The second half, he was very good. He twists and turns. He's sharp. He's a good player."

BERNARD / ALLSPORT



Wright races away in triumph after opening the scoring against Villa

Unassuming Parkes smooths Eriksson's path

Derby County 0
Blackburn Rovers 0

By RICHARD HOBSON

THERE is not an ounce of jealousy in Tony Parkes when he outlines the differences between Sven Goran Eriksson and himself. In terms of style, they are further apart than the distance between Blackburn and Sampdoria. Eriksson is a Ferrari and Armandi is a Fiat.

He did not need to add that Clough would be in every one of them.

LEICESTER CITY (4-1-3-1): K Keller — S Gulyani, S Parker, M McDonald, N Williams, J Clark, G Parker, E Heskey — S Clarke, M Coates, R Heskey, P Clark, S Clarke, S Gulyani, M McDonald, D Lyons, G J. Wilson (sub: C Allen, 78) — D Saunders, K Campbell. Referee: K Burge.

Parkes in a caretaker role until then. While Eriksson will accept the reins regardless of Blackburn's status, Parkes suggested in his endeearing way that it would be nice if the club remained in the FA Carling Premiership.

They are third from bottom today but a run of eight games with one defeat suggests that both men have room for optimism. The most reassuring aspect of Eriksson's long-anticipated appointment is that Parkes will remain at the club until mid-January.

However, the prospects for Eriksson when he leaves the Serie A club at the end of the season to take up management at Ewood Park, are dictated by the success of

away from the spotlight. That, at least, is until the next time that Robert Coar, the chairman, asks him to fill in.

"This is the third time I have been caretaker manager but usually it is for three or four games and then I am out on a blaze of glory. This time people will be a bit critical because I have time to do things my way," Parkes said.

"I have changed the formation and altered one or two players but I think they are enjoying it."

The 4-3-3 formation, a slight but important variant on the 4-4-2 of Ray Harford, his predecessor, sees Jason Wilcox and Kevin Gallacher flank Chris Sutton up front and accommodate Lars Bohinen.

considered a luxury by Harford, in midfield. Sutton is a happier soul these days, despite hitting the bar and placing a header too near to Russell Hoult from close range on Saturday.

Parkes felt that this was Blackburn's best away performance of the season, regardless of the fact that, for Derby, Dean Sturridge hit the bar and both Aljoša Asanović and Chris Powell missed good chances. The home side have earned just two points from their last five games and suddenly look jittery. "It is going to be a dogfight to avoid relegation this season and it could involve 12 to 15 teams," Jim Smith, the manager, said.

Like Parkes, increasingly resigned to losing one of his goalkeepers, Shay Given or Tim Flowers, Smith has issues to address. He will not, though, turn his mind to the behaviour of Igor Štimac, the captain, who was booked for the tenth time this season for pushing Sutton to the ground.

Somebody suggested that the Croatia defender had been daft. "Not daft, I thought it was normal for Igor," Smith sighed. "I do not think anybody can change him."

DERBY COUNTY (4-1-3-1): R Hout — G Power, D Yates, I Simic, J Lauren, C Daily (sub: D Power, 85min), L Carsley, A Asanović, C Powell — A Ward (sub: M Draper, 72), F. Johnson, R Scales — F Nelson, T Taylor, M Draper (sub: D Yorke, 88), A Townsend, A Wright — D Yorke. Referee: J Viner

For a time, Southall kept Blackburn at bay with two brilliant saves, but Ekoku brought them level from a corner before the hour, and from then on there was only one winner.

Jupp, a £200,000 buy from Fulham, made his debut memorable as his long ball found Leonardsen running free behind Unsworth to beat Southall, and then Gayle, showing fine balance and touch for a big man, accepted Ekoku's flick to round Southall and score.

EVERTON (4-4-2): N Southall — G Power, E Barnet, D Unsworth, G Speed — G Stewart, J Ebbo (sub: J Mills, 75min), A Greenwood, C Houghton, F. Johnson, D Ferguson — D. Blackwell, B McAuley, A Kimble, N Ardrey, V Jones, K Cunningham, O Leonardsen — E Ekoku, M Gayle. Referee: M Bodenham



CARLING PREMIERSHIP



AN ANALYSIS of the traditional new year fixtures is not complete without a brief look at the changing fortunes of teams from one year to the next (Julian Dabbsworth writes).

The table below shows the current position of FA Carling Premiership clubs and their record over the last three seasons. This table also records for the next three seasons in this future column (in brackets) their position in the Premiership during that season (in brackets). There were no Premiership fixtures on January 1 or 2 in season 1992-93.

Liverpool, the leaders, have the best new year record with a 100% success rate. They have lost only seven points from their last three new year fixtures are Newcastle United, Blackpool Rovers and Sheffield Wednesday, the latter team achieving this from a mid-table position on each occasion. Arsenal, a man down, will hope to repeat their win in 1994 which they were denied in this year's March fixture. They have not been lower than second for the past four years at this stage of the season, look ominous with three consecutive wins.

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City find it's not what you spend but the way that you spend it



Bosanic, the Serbian midfielder, beats Margetson from the penalty spot for Barnsley's first goal against Manchester City. Photograph: Andrew Varley

Wilson's workers lighten the darkness

Oliver Holt visits Oakwell, where a talented Barnsley side emerged 2-0 victors and got right back on track for fame beyond their own backyard

The mist crept down over the hills that Barnsley clings to and caked the town in an early dusk. The colliery wheel brooding in the valley that falls away from one side of Oakwell disappeared in the gloom as the second half began and opposite, sandwiched between the two tiers of the East Stand, the lights in the executive boxes came on.

Thirty groups of faces peered out through 30 steamy windows and watched a Trinidadian with skills so mercurial he made some of the Manchester City players look like Sunday league clothoppers and a Serb who was as regal as Ruud Gullit inspire Barnsley to a performance which tore the big boys from across the Pennines to pieces and lifted Barnsley to second place in the Nationwide League first division.

In the other imposing stand, behind the goal City attempted to defend in the first half, the home fans taunted their opponents with fears of "going down, going down". By the end, the visiting fans knew to take a pop at their chairman, Francis Lee, who was on holiday in the Caribbean, even gave their rivals one of the ultimate accolades: "I'd rather be in Barnsley than Barbados," they sang.

That might be giving the club a better press than even they deserve, but times are changing in this part of south Yorkshire. Barnsley and Oakwell might evoke thoughts of an old-fashioned ground — wooden seats, pipe smoke, low-slung stands amid rows of terraced houses and decaying facilities, and an up-and-under team to match — but the reality is rather different.

The reality is a club that has, so far, managed to marry the friendliness and earthy tradition that it has built up in a long history with a modern stadium that would not disgrace the Premiership let alone the first division and a thoroughly modern team with one of the best young managers in the sport, Danny Wilson. There are no Luddites here.

The mistake people make," Wilson said after the game, "is thinking that the fans here have just been watching gritty football all their lives. It is perceived by people as all flat caps and whippets up here and maybe it is. But that is not to say the supporters are not *au fait* with attractive football."

Their 2-0 win over City on Saturday moved Barnsley hot on to the heels of Bolton Wanderers, the team that knocked them off the top of the table on Boxing Day, when they lost at Stoke City, a defeat that was only their second in 17 games.

They have not got a big squad and Wilson's record signing is the £250,000 he paid for John Hendrie, compared with the millions being lavished on new players elsewhere.

The plight of City, though, who have now won just seven points out of a possible 33 since their hapless caretaker-manager, Phil Neal, took charge, is evidence that big spending cannot buy you success.

Wilson, a Lancastrian who lived in Wigan until he was 16, says there is no secret behind the success he has brought across the Pennines. Careful husbandry is essential, of course, when the crowds average just over 9,000, a product among others, of the disasters which have befallen the mining industry in recent years.

"It is all about the players," Wilson said. "If you can instil confidence in players at certain times and marry new players into your system, that is how you succeed. There are no superstars at this club. Most of them are only famous in their own backyard and maybe they want to change that. That can only help me."

If some of them continue to perform as they did against City, their fame will spread and the spectators will come. Marcelle, the Trinidadian midfielder, produced one crack-back turn in the first half that foiled Summerbee so comprehensively it was embarrassing, but worth the admission money all by itself.

By then, Barnsley were already two goals ahead. Bosanic, a majestic Serbian midfielder, scored the first from the penalty spot after Symons was rather harshly adjudged to have handled on the goal-line, but there was no argument about the second. Sheridan picked out a fine run by Moses with a raking 50-yard pass and the resulting header floated over Margetson.

City rallied briefly and Lomas should have pulled one back for them just before the interval, when he volleyed Heaney's cross wide, but for most of the second half, Barnsley were coasting, bursting into life occasionally. Even then, the understanding between their forwards, Hendrie and Wilkinson, surpassed anything City possessed.

"It's not just 'we're up there,'" the club mascot, Tommy Tyke, said in his programme notes. "it's 'we've done it, playin' oppen, attackin' football booth noan'an away.' If they keep it up, the Premiership will be a treat next season."

City are hoping that they can persuade Clark to accept the position before the next game in order to arrest a slide that has plunged them into the bottom four of the Nationwide League first division.

In the absence on holiday of Francis Lee, the City chairman, Clark has entered into negotiations with David Bernstein, the director with financial responsibilities. Sources at the club suggest that a deal is close to being completed to present Clark with the opportunity to inherit the position already occupied by Alan Ball, Asa, Bradford, Coppel and Phil Neal, the caretaker-manager, this season.

Negotiations with the former Nottingham Forest manager are at an advanced stage and the Maine Road board is expected to rubber-stamp Clark's demands this afternoon. If an agreement can be reached, then the club will call a press conference on Tuesday to unveil its new manager.

Staff, with Alan Hill, the Nottingham Forest assistant manager, a likely candidate.

Lewis will talk to directors tomorrow to approve the appointment if Clark can agree terms. The chairman's presence is not so necessary after control of City eventually passed to the businessman, Stephen Boler, when he purchased the largest single shareholding.

City are hoping that they can persuade Clark to accept the position before the next game in order to arrest a slide that has plunged them into the bottom four of the Nationwide League first division.

BARNESLEY (0-2-2): D Watson — M Appleby, S David, A de Zeeuw — N Eaden, J Bosanic, C Marcelle, D Sheridan, A Moses — P Wilkinson, J Heaney, A Lomas (sub: R Symons).

MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): M Margetson — L Crooks, K Symons, J Brightwell, E McGarick (sub: M Brown, 49) — N Summerbee, S Lomas, J Whitley, N Heaney — G Kinsella — U Reuler.

Referee: H Poulton.

Young Cobblers please Atkins with confident forward march

**Northampton Town 2
Barnet 0**

By MEL WEBB

THERE was a time, not so long ago, when Northampton Town's football bore an uncomfortably close resemblance to their nickname, the Cobblers. No more. Under Ian Atkins, their hard-working manager, Northampton are fast becoming a force in the Nationwide League third division, and a convincing performance on Saturday underlined the point.

Admittedly, Alan Mullery's Barnet were without some of their better players for this encounter on the blasted heath of Sixfields Stadium — Devine, Hodges and Hardyman were among those sick or injured — but that should not be allowed to detract from the qualities of Northampton.

Like so many of his contemporaries in the neither reaches of the league, Atkins is forced

to operate within financial constraints that would make a shoestring budget expansive. Nonetheless, the former Sunderland player has built a first-team squad of predominantly youthful talent.

He has them playing decent football, too, and for that he can thank some of the more seasoned players in his side, who are providing the leavening of experience upon which his young Turks are building something worthwhile.

Sam Parish, a £35,000 buy from Doncaster, and Neil Grayson were the driving forces in the Northampton midfield, and Barnes had no one to match them. A goal by Sampson five minutes before the break and another by Cooper nine minutes from time settled the issue.

Atkins has to juggle resources more, even, than most of his peers. Northampton play in a modern, council-owned stadium, and the rent they pay to the local authority is related to attendances.

Walker gives Woking timely lift

**Woking 2
Slough Town 0**

By WALTER GAMMIE

SINCE beating Cambridge United three weeks ago to line up an FA Cup third-round trip to Coventry City, Woking had lost two and drawn two of their four matches. This, just when Slough Town had blossomed in a four-match sequence of victories.

So a good all-round performance at Kingfield on Saturday helped to restore morale and keep Woking in distant pursuit of Kidderminster Harriers in the Vauxhall Conference — they lie 17 points behind with three matches in

Atkins is therefore compelled to save money on his playing staff while at the same time providing good, crowd-attracting football. The better they play and the more people who come to watch them, the more it costs. It must be a headache, but he is enjoying himself.

"I'm excited by what we've got going here," he said after a victory that saw his side move into sixth place in the table. "Some of the kids in this club are fantastic."

He never been in a club with a better set of young players. Anybody who is in the sort of position we're in with 20 games to go has a chance of a play-off place. If we can maintain our form and don't suffer too much from injuries and suspensions, I believe we're in with a shout."

NORTHAMPTON TOWN (4-4-2): A Woodman — I Simpson, R Warburton, L Meddison — J Cleeson, D Pearce, N M Fitch (sub: D Martin, 88), M Cooper.

BARNET (4-4-2): M Taylor — K Ratsey, L Primus, J Howarth, S Gayle — M Sampson, P Cooper, G Brind, D Samuels, J Campbell.

Referee: D Pugh.

hand, Walker had a goal disallowed for offside. Foster saw Flory clear his header off the line and Thompson's header was tipped over by Wilkerson before Woking took the lead after 29 minutes with another remarkable goal by Walker:

Running along the right-hand edge of the penalty area onto a ball lofted forward by Howard, Walker saw Wilkerson charging off his line. Pressure from a defender and the harder, slippery surface in the lee of the new stand could not put Walker off as he floated the ball into an empty net. It was a triumph of awareness and technical accomplishment.

Woking's second goal in the

57th minute was beautifully worked. A neat touch from Hunter allowed Steele to pick out Walker on the far side of the area, and he hooked the ball into the middle first time for the on-rushing Taylor to score.

Hunter's selection followed the late arrival of Hay, his rival for the position alongside Walker, at Hayes on Boxing Day. He scored twice then and showed enough to keep his place against Coventry next Saturday.

WOKING (4-4-2): P Whitehead — P Brown, S Foster — S Hay, S Thompson, C Walker.

SLOUGH TOWN (3-5-2): P Wilkinson — G McGivern, H Stansfeld, S Stevenson, G Abbott, S Stansfeld, M Fitch, D Abbott, M Murphy (sub: D Bell, 64).

Referee: R Coakhead.

Beauchamp lauds it at the Manor

**Oxford United 2
Reading 1**

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

OXFORD United held off a late rally by Reading in an entertaining Thames Valley derby — probably the last to be staged at the Manor Ground — and regained a place in the top six of the Nationwide League first division, a position Matt Elliott, their much-admired central defender, believes they can maintain.

"There's nothing to be scared of," he said. "We've shown we can beat the best teams; if we can improve our consistency away from home, it's a definite possibility."

Elliott may not be there to see it, however. Oxford, with a new ground to finance, have received a number of seven-figure bids for him, and the latest — £1.5 million from Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, who watched the match — has been rejected.

Elliott's defensive qualities would doubtless be missed, as well as his frequent forays upfield to lend his height and weight to attacks. Scoring goals was more of a problem than keeping them out for Oxford on Saturday, though. They could have won by a much wider margin, even if one of the two they did manage would have grazed any post.

Receiving the ball on the right after seven minutes, Beauchamp profited from a rebound and saw his chance to cut inside before swerving a high, left-foot shot over the leaping Wright from outside the penalty area. "The difference between the two sides was the bit of magic Beauchamp showed," Mick Gooding, the joint Reading player-manager, said.

OXFORD UNITED (4-4-2): P Whitehead — P Brown, S Foster — S Hay, S Thompson, C Walker.

READING (4-4-2): T Wright — M Boddy, K McPherson, A Barnes, S O'Brien, G Abbott, M Murphy (sub: M Coffey, 64), D Caskey, M Goading — I Hogan (sub: J Dunn, 76), T Morley.

Referee: C Wilkes.

McStay adds artist's touch to Celtic's grand design

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

IT WAS as if Paul McStay had never been away. The quick reactions and sure technique were all there as he brought a tricky question under control.

No sooner had it been suggested that the Old Firm fixture on Thursday will be the most significant in years, than the Celtic captain was playing down its importance. Journalists may sigh over the lack of a provocative remark, but McStay's restraint is precious to his club.

"Goalscorers keep going back for more, even when they miss chances," Denis Smith, his manager, said, but then admitted: "I would have liked him to take some. It would have made the last few minutes easier." Among McStay's less-than-magnificent efforts after the break were a shot with the ball wide of the post and a header straight at Wright, and he volleyed wildly over the crossbar with only the goalkeeper in front of him — and that was just in the first half.

"Goalscorers keep going back for more, even when they miss chances," Denis Smith, his manager, said, but then admitted: "I would have liked him to take some. It would have made the last few minutes easier." Among McStay's less-than-magnificent efforts after the break were a shot with the ball wide of the post and a header straight at Wright, and he volleyed wildly over the crossbar with only the goalkeeper in front of him — and that was just in the first half.

All the same, his wounds proved less severe than Dunfermline might have hoped. In the first few seconds, McStay pounced to win the ball, purging fears that he would now be a sedate figure who shied away from the maelstrom of the match. With great deliberation, Celtic have been reducing expectations about their captain.

In August, Tommy Burns, their manager, had said that McStay would have to be used sparingly in future and there has been gloom over the condition of the ankle, which has lost some of its flexibility. After such woe, one almost believed that Celtic were listing an invalid in their line-up.

McStay's vigour and stamina throughout 88 minutes on the field therefore took the audience by pleasant surprise. If the limbs can be kept in tolerable condition, then his unimpaired poise will

however, will be assisted by his own desire to complete it.

Anyone passing through the foyer of Celtic Park at lunchtime on Friday would have seen a heavy-set, middle-aged man with a stick in his hand. Bobby Murdoch was the great governing influence in midfield for the Celtic side that won the European Cup in 1967.

He damaged an ankle badly while still a teenager and, in all the triumphant years that followed, could rarely train fully. Murdoch's shrewdness and innate talent allowed him to surmount limitations, but it was also the sheer joy of participating in a superb side that allowed him to continue.

The analogy with McStay is not perfect. The Celtic captain cannot be glad that his injury has come much later in life and will receive far more sophisticated treatment than Murdoch's did. It is also true that McStay's side will never come close to the standards achieved in 1967. Nonetheless, there is a comparison to be drawn.

In Jorge Cadete, Andreas Thom, Paolo di Canio, McStay, too, has team-mates who make a midfield player eager for action. The captain has had to suffer a great deal of frustration in what ought to have been the peak years of his career. By the time he was 24, McStay, in 1989, had winner's medals from three league championships, three Scottish Cups and one League Cup.

Since then, in a desolate period from which the club is beginning to recover, he has added just one Scottish Cup success. McStay has always been a devoted servant but now that Celtic have again found genuinely exciting players, selfishness may prove the greatest motivator of all as he seeks the pleasure of a place beside them.



McStay: purged fears

Jolly good Fellows stands up for the fall guys

There is something rather satisfying about getting an entire live sporting event under your belt before *Grandstand* has even started. There is something rather strange, however, when that event is skiing. No matter how long I watch, I still do not know quite what to make of a sport where the winner's first reaction on crossing the line is to rip off a ski and shove the leg into the face of an obliging cameraman.

There was lots of that in evidence over the weekend, with two women's slalom races from Serre-Chevalier, in France, and a men's downhill from Bormio, in Italy. All three started on time, were completed over the full course and were very exciting.

At last, after the disappointments of Val d'Isère and Val Gardena, the Alpine ski sea-



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

son was doing exactly what the broadcasters wanted it to do. The BBC celebrated ... by postponing *Ski Sunday* until Wednesday, when for reasons known only at Television Centre, it will be called *Ski Sunday Special* and will be mainly about ski-jumping.

Although the BBC managed to fit highlights of the first race from Semmering into *Grandstand*, this was Eurosport's chance to shine with live coverage of all four legs of the women's races and the men's downhill. The Paris-based satellite channel took it — though not with total conviction.

There was no doubting the quality of the pictures provided by the host-broadcaster at either venue, although the Austrians had an easier time of it than their Italian colleagues, who faced the challenge of capturing an

unprecedented number of high-speed fallers. But there was something uncharacteristically remote about the commentary being provided by David Goldstrom, in Austria, and Nick Fellows, in Italy.

They were certainly both there in spirit, but something — a lack of camp gossip, perhaps — made me wonder if they were there in body as well. A number of skiers, Fellows told us, had chosen to spend Christmas with their families. Mind you, given the attrition rate at Bormio, perhaps nobody who spoke English had got to the bottom.

For one weekend it did not

matter. The image problem that women's skiing still faces is more serious than anything that could be solved by just having the experienced Goldstrom on site.

As for the men's race, watching Luc Alphand and the ski gang struggling to stay upright on snow as hard as concrete was so thrilling it almost did not need a commentary. Nevertheless, Fellows was on hand to explain all about uphill and downhill skis, weight transfer and the importance of pre-jumping.

With the exception of Alberto Tomba's second run in the slalom, the men's downhill remains the blue riband Alpine event and Fellows works immensely hard to turn faceless, rubber-clad competitors into real people. The pictures are beyond his control, but the sound is not.

Normally, half the Canadian team drop in for a chat and a spot of co-commentating, and a brace of "attacking Vikings" pop in to show off their multilingual skills.

It is exactly what the sport needs. Rather than turning the skiers into high-speed advertising slogans (Deborah Compagnoni won yesterday's slalom not only with the traditional flourish of one ski but with a Seat logo taped to her helmet) the skiing authorities and the host-broadcasters should concentrate on turning them back to people.

That means better coverage of the warm-up and warm-down areas and more help for commentators with identification when bib-numbers are obscured. Of course, a good commentator will recognise the whole field by sight. Back home, I'd be happy with three.

German yacht wins Sydney-Hobart race

THE German maxi, *Morning Glory*, broke the 21-year record for the Sydney-to-Hobart race, one of yachting's most coveted prizes, when she won line honours in the 650-nautical mile race. The 80-foot maxi took 29min 46sec off the record of two days 14hr 36min 56sec set by Kialoa, the United States maxi, in 1975. "We lost it three times and then we won it. It was a great win," Hasso Plattner, the owner of *Morning Glory*, said after crossing the finish line. *Morning Glory* boasted some of the world's best sailors, including the America's Cup helmsman, Russell Coutts.

Plattner said: "We had a terrible start but we recovered from that. Then we ran into a southerly front and had to lower the mainsail because the leech line broke. At one stage we were ten miles behind the leader. Then, off Tasman Island, the wind started to die away." The pocket maxis, *Exile* and *Foxtel Amazon*, finished second and third, with the Australian yacht *Ausmaid*, emerging as the leader on handicap after crossing the line in seventh place behind *Morning Glory*.

Jaguars snatch victory

AMERICAN FOOTBALL A late 45-yard field goal by Mike Hollis bounced through the upright to give the Jacksonville Jaguars a 20-27 victory over Buffalo Bills in the first National Football League play-off on Saturday. The victory sent Jacksonville into the divisional play-offs, earning them a game with either Denver or New England. For the Bills, the American Football Conference's dominant team this decade with four Super Bowl appearances and as many losses, it was their first play-off defeat at Buffalo's Rich Stadium.

They could not handle Natrone Means, who rushed for 175 yards. Means had a 30-yard touchdown run, then a 62-yard run that led to a first field goal for Hollis. Though Bills struck back to go 27-20 ahead, Jacksonville produced a 65-yard drive to tie the game, before their winning goal.

Morgan must specialise

BOGLS: Betty Morgan, the Welsh indoor singles champion, is on the brink of winning all four national indoor championships — she has reached the semi-finals in singles, pairs, triples and fours — but fixture pressures mean that she will not be allowed to compete for more than one British Isles title when the championships begin in Perth in March. "It's a bit early to be talking about more than one title, because I could come crashing out of them all in the semi-finals," Morgan said yesterday. "But it does seem unfair that someone who wins more than one national title should be denied the chance of going on to compete in the equivalent British events."

Rusedski pulls out

TENNIS: Greg Rusedski, right, has been forced out of the Adelaide Open, starting today, because of injury, disrupting his planned build-up to the Australian Open. The British No 2 had wanted to use the Adelaide tournament to prepare for the first of the four grand-slam events, but has withdrawn, suffering from blisters. His concern will be that his fitness returns in time to play the Australian Open in Melbourne, starting on January 13.

Frustration for Hull

RUGBY LEAGUE: Hull were upset after yesterday's friendly against York was off because a flu bug had laid low several York players. A Hull official said: "The entire saga is ridiculous and we are far from happy about the way things have been done." Stuart Horton, the York coach, said: "I couldn't raise a team — I had so many players reporting in sick, the numbers left didn't add up to a team." Oldham's plan to stage a nostalgic farewell match at Watershedding against Swinton yesterday fell victim to the weather. It has been rearranged for next Sunday.

Doherty's mixed start

SNOOKER: Ken Doherty, the defending champion, suffered mixed fortunes as he began the defence of his Dr Martens European League title at the Diamond Centre, Irthingborough. The 27-year-old from Dublin, overwhelmed John Parrott, of Liverpool, 7-4 in his opening contest. Against Peter Ebdon, however, Doherty recorded breaks of 120 and 139 but still ended a 5-5 loser. Doherty, the world No 7, had been scheduled to face Jimmy White in his second game but the match was postponed because of the recent death of White's mother.

Storm warning

ICES HOCKEY: Manchester Storm paid a heavy price for the number of defensive errors they made in their 7-4 defeat by Bracknell Bees on Saturday, for the result sent them to the bottom of the Superleague table. Sheffield Steelers joined Newcastle Cobras in second place after a 3-2 win over Nottingham Panthers. Nicky Chin scoring the winning goal two minutes into overtime. It was the Panthers' first defeat in six games.

Croatia come through

TENNIS: Croatia, the No 1 seeds, beat Australia 2-1 on the first day of the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday. Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, took 59 minutes to beat Goran Ivanisevic, the world No 4, 6-2, 6-3 to level the tie at 1-1 after Ivica Majoli drew first blood for Croatia with a 6-4, 6-3 win over Nicole Bradtke. In the deciding doubles tie, the Croatia pair secured victory with a 7-5, 7-5 win. In the second group A match, United States beat France, the No 4 seeds, 2-1.

ATHLETICS

Brown set to miss trials for world championships

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

JON BROWN stole the show in the Bupa County Durham cross country on Saturday, completing the most impressive sequence of victories by a British athlete this year but refused to acknowledge that he might win a medal at the world championships this winter. Paula Radcliffe was unable to make it a British double, finishing third, but was optimistic that a world medal is a definite prospect. More likely, perhaps, than if she had won at the weekend.

Brown, normally plain-speaking, and with a no-nonsense approach to his racing, turned riddler after his victory. After wins this month over Paul Tergat, the world champion, from Kenya, and in the European championships, he did not fall for the surging tactics of Daniel Komen, the International Amateur Athletics Federation distance runner of the year. Brown's even pace left him with the strength to pull away from the Kenyan in the closing stages to win by three seconds.

Having said that there would be enough Africans in shape to run 20min 30sec for 10,000 metres in Turin in March to keep him out of the world championship medals, Brown said that he would not be running in the British trials for the world track championships in Athens next summer. "There is something going to be happening at that time of year that puts two 10,000 metres races [the trials and the Athens final] into a less important perspective," he said, beaving the question: "What?"

He would not say, except that it was personal and nothing to do with running.



cross country — David Clarke, Eamonn Martin and Alison Whyte among them — suggests that Brown and Radcliffe will be picked for Turin, regardless of the trials. Radcliffe, normally loyal to the trials, said that she wanted to try a different approach to the world championships this year after a series of winter setbacks since she won the junior title in 1992. This will mean training at altitude in Albuquerque at a time that coincides with the trials.

It is nubming to think that Radcliffe, who broke Zola Budd's British 5,000 metres record last summer and was

close to an Olympic medal in fifth, has never finished higher than eighteenth in the world cross-country event in her four years as a senior. Each time, either illness or injury has intervened. Now recovered from the knee trouble that restricted her training until four weeks ago, she is hopeful that building to a peak over four months will prove more successful than attempting to hold the early-season form reflected by her past wins in Durham.

"My problem is that I have been in shape at this time of year and have not been able to sustain it," she said. "That is why, this year, it may be a good thing that I have been set back." She recalled how, in the season that she won her junior world title, she had a "terrible" run in Durham. "I turned it around to be in the right shape in March," she recalled.

Radcliffe described her latest performance as "OK". Gete Wami, the world champion, from Ethiopia, and Elena Fidatov, a Romanian who finished close behind her in the Olympic final, proved stronger on the run-in. "I struggled on the hills because I am not as strong as I normally am at this time of year," Radcliffe said.

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Next season, this popular event may have to move and organisers are considering alternatives, possibly switching to another part of the country.

County Durham's sponsorship is at an end, though the City of Durham remains committed, as does Bupa. However, with four years of a five-year television deal with the BBC still to run, it is not on its last legs.

BASKETBALL

Leopards take their revenge

By NICHOLAS HARLING

JOHN WHITE threw the Budweiser League title race wide open last night by scoring 33 points, to help the Leopards to beat the joint leaders, Sheffield Sharks, 88-79 in the Sheffield Arena. In the process of gaining their win, which moves them up to the fourth of clubs on the 20-point mark, the Leopards also earned an important psychological advantage for next month's Sainsbury's Classic Cup final at the same venue.

Narrowly beaten at home by the Sharks six weeks ago, the Leopards set off determined to avenge that reverse. Within two minutes they had

collected the first six points and it was not until Voise Winters opened the Sheffield reply that the home side started to make any real impression.

The Sharks had assembled

an earlier 10-0 surge but they were upstaged by the Leopards, especially White, who hit four three-pointers in an 18-2 sequence. From 49-50 ahead, the Leopards were suddenly in front at 57-51, a lead they never looked like losing. The aggressive Robert Youngblood was fouled out with six minutes to go but the London side made light of that handicap, and the more so when Winters went too with 90 seconds left.

There was no hint then of the havoc that White might

ROWING

Leander move in for Jahrling's signature

IIVOR LLOYD, the captain of Leander Club, the home of Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, was a happy man this weekend (Mike Rosewell writes). Leander are negotiating the coaching services of Harald Jahrling, the east German, who coached the Australian pair who pushed Redgrave and Pinsent so hard for their gold medal in Atlanta.

Jahrling, a double Olympic gold medal-winner himself in coxed pairs for Germany in Montreal and Moscow, has

spent the past seven years as chief coach at the New South Wales Australian Institute of Sport. Leander had not advertised for a coach and Lloyd admitted that Jahrling was head-hunted, adding: "He was one of my primary targets."

Jahrling's salary will be funded by a grant, valued at £140,000 over four years, from the Foundation of Sports and Arts, and backed by Leander Club itself. It is hoped that his contract will start from February 1.

Now classed as a tropical storm, what is left of Fergus is moving down the North Island from Auckland

towards Wellington, with forecasters predicting winds gusting 70 to 90 knots and kicking up a strong easterly swell. All the crews have prepared to deal with extreme conditions and race organisers were keeping a close watch on the storm's progress.

On *Courtauld International*, which is struggling along in thirteenth position, 630 miles adrift of the leader, there was apprehension about what might be in store. The saying "calm before the storm" appears to be very appropriate, as we drift slowly along in very little wind, with Hurricane Fergus forecast to arrive during Monday, directly in our path for Wellington. It would

be a Southern Ocean full of surprises and its unique quality is the speed at which the weather changes," the crew reported.

The finish itself was turning into something of a replay of the

BT Challenge chart ... 29

agonisingly slow conclusion to the first leg into Rio de Janeiro. Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, still looked likely to win the leg but his lead was being eaten away by Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, in second place. For the past few days, Golding has

maintained an advantage of around 60 miles over Hindley but with just 7½ miles left to sail to the line, he was making just 0.6 knots after being caught under the lee of the land in the Cook Strait, which divides the North from the South Island. Hindley was still doing 9.4 knots out at sea and had reduced the deficit to 40 miles.

Golding's likely victory in the leg, however, gives him a strong overall position in the race, after his win in the first leg. He has also reinforced the all-important psychological edge he has enjoyed over his fellow skippers from before the start. After *Save The Children*, there is a gap of around 160 miles to *Toshiba Wave Warrior* in third place and a

further 80 miles to *Motorola* in fourth. There is then a tight battle still going on between *Global Teamwork*, *Commercial Union* and *Pausa To Remember* for fifth, with the three boats early today ten miles apart in terms of their distance to the finish.

The crew on *Concert* is getting bored with listening to their engine. 11 days after the dismasting which put them out of the leg, they were expecting to arrive at the Chatham Islands, about 420 miles east of Wellington, some time tomorrow. Assuming Fergus is kind to them, they are then planning to refuel and head straight for Wellington, where they hope to arrive about three days later.

SAILING: CREWS PREPARE FOR LASHING FROM TAIL OF HURRICANE FERGUS AS SECOND LEG NEARS END

Global Challenge fleet goes onto storm-force alert

By EDWARD GORMAN

SAILING CORRESPONDENT

HURRICANE FERGUS is lashing the Global Challenge fleet as it heads towards the Southern Ocean. The tail of the storm, which has already passed the Chatham Islands, is now hitting the fleet as they pass through the Cook Strait, which separates the North and South Islands. The tail of the storm is bringing with it strong winds, heavy rain and large waves. The crews are preparing for the worst, as they expect the storm to last for several days. The Global Challenge fleet consists of nine boats, each with a crew of four. They are currently sailing from Wellington, New Zealand, towards the Southern Ocean. The first leg of the race, from Wellington to the Chatham Islands, has already been completed. The second leg, from the Chatham Islands to the Southern Ocean, is currently underway. The third leg, from the Southern Ocean to the finish line in New Zealand, is due to start in early January. The Global Challenge fleet is competing in the 1996-97 Whitbread Round the World Race. The race starts in December 1996 and ends in November 1997. The Global Challenge fleet is one of the most experienced and well-prepared teams in the race. They have been training for months, and have a wealth of experience in sailing in difficult conditions. The Global Challenge fleet is currently in 10th place in the race, with a total of 110 points. The leading team, the Whitbread Round the World Race, has a total of 180 points. The Global Challenge fleet is currently sailing in the Southern Ocean, which is known for its rough and unpredictable conditions. The tail of the storm is causing significant problems for the fleet, as they are being lashed by the wind and rain. The crews are working hard to keep the boats stable and to avoid any damage. The Global Challenge fleet is determined to finish the race and to bring home a trophy. They are currently sailing towards the finish line in New Zealand, which is approximately 1,500 miles away. The race is expected to last for several months, and the Global Challenge fleet is looking forward to the challenge ahead.



Lesson for Atherton in Ambrose's renaissance

Similarities between Michael Atherton and Curtly Ambrose are not readily apparent but, in these past few weeks, they have had a surprising amount in common. For years, their respective teams have relied upon them for inspiration, the extent of the dependence only obvious when the inspiration runs chronically short.

The fact that England generally prosper when Atherton makes runs is endorsed by the value every opposing team places upon his wicket, even when he is in demonstrably poor form. And, while it might seem more logical to compare him with Brian Lara, the truth is that the best indicator of West Indian vibrancy has long been the level of spring in Ambrose's knees and the degree of animation in his expressive eyes.

Atherton will be profoundly concerned this morning, not

only through the condition of his touring England team but the health of his own batting. Despite the relative recovery yesterday, bulletins on both have been uniformly depressing.

Consolation is at hand, however, through the astonishing renaissance of Ambrose and West Indies, a compelling example of how quickly the fortunes of cricketers can be transformed.

Three weeks ago today, I left Australia believing that the five-Test series for the Frank Worrell Trophy had effectively been decided in two games. West Indies had not only been outplayed and defeated in both the initial Tests, their spirit and stature had been drained to a level from which early recovery seemed inconceivable.

Early on Boxing Day morning, I had a wake-up call from an Australian journalist, lamenting a story he wished he

had not written. "Who would have been idiot enough to write off Curtly Ambrose?" he mocked himself. "Only me." Ambrose, he said, had taken five cheap wickets on the first day in Melbourne and West Indies were back in business.

The writer was not alone with his regrets. Anyone who observed the first two Tests would have shared his suspicions as Ambrose took three extravagantly expensive wickets, bowling without rhythm or self-belief. We have seen his monumental sults before, but this one looked terminal and, without him, West Indies could generate no steam, no fire, no momentum.

But Ambrose, though gloweringly unapproachable to all but his inner circle, is an intensely proud man. He detested the jibes that he was only seeing out his time with a few more pay-cheques and resented the unfamiliar

ALAN LEE



Test match
Commentary

inside three days, its abiding memories the high-kicking approach and high-energy celebrations of a giant revived.

Atherton can be as deep and private as Ambrose but he is still more inscrutable when troubled by falling form. Up to now, he has always managed to put things right when it mattered, making runs in Test cricket even when looking clueless in lesser contests. But 1996 was not a good year for him and there has been no comfort whatever from the last month.

His 16 Test innings this year have produced 469 runs at an average barely above 30. He has not reached 50 in the last seven of those innings and, against the newest and humbllest of Test nations, he has totalled 34 runs in two matches.

The cares of captaincy make it no easier for him. His

team has looked vulnerable and the neurotic utterances of his confidant and accomplice, the coach, David Lloyd, have done him no favours. To make matters worse we now have the sideshow of Ian Botham, entrusted by Atherton and Lloyd with an honorary input of advice, complaining in a Sunday newspaper that he had not been consulted on selection and proclaiming in effect that he should be running the show. Laugh it off though he may, this was hardly what a beligerent captain needs.

All might look so much rosier, however, if only Atherton could make a decent score. It scarcely looks likely right now, for his feet are as reluctant to move to his favourite tune as were Ambrose's in Sydney a month ago. He is pushing and poking from a crease-bound pose and giving slip-catching

Reformers increase pressure on England to perform

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN HARARE

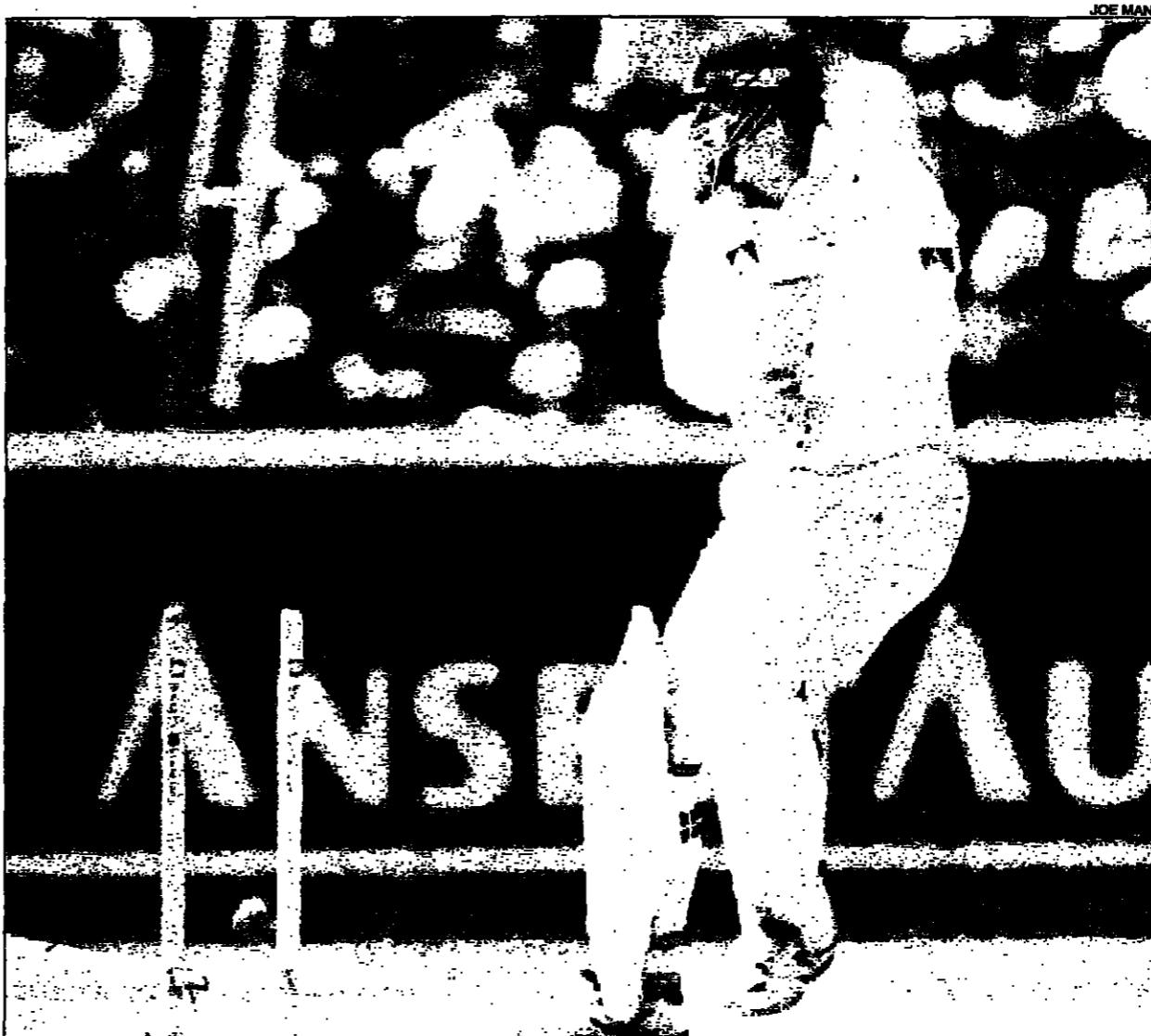
ENGLISH cricket is fighting battles on two fronts in Zimbabwe. One is for its reputation on the field; the other is for its public image. A losing national side has remained financially durable beyond expectations; how long it can remain so when it is perceived to be surrounded by controversy and confusion, is uncertain.

In Bulawayo last Sunday, David Lloyd, the England coach, was involved in a heated exchange of words with a local cricket official directly after the end of the tense first Test match and yesterday Lloyd was obliged to deny a Sunday newspaper report of an alleged rift with Ian Botham, who is acting informally as a technical adviser to England's bowlers.

At other times, such incidents might not have created a stir but the timing now is unfortunate because, among the spectators to fly into Harare for the second Test match, were Tim Lamb and Lord MacLaurin, recently appointed chief executive and chairman respectively of the Test and County Cricket Board. Both are intent on defending the game's image in a competitive marketplace and anxious that nothing should happen to harm it.

Thus, although the "Lloyd affair" was deemed closed before he arrived on Boxing Day, Lamb quickly made it his business to speak to the England coach about the Bulawayo incident. Lamb would not disclose details yesterday of their meeting, except to say that he had taken "appropriate action". MacLaurin, who arrived on Saturday, was quick to point out: "Public relations and the way we present ourselves is of the utmost importance."

MacLaurin has been hailed as the man who can bring English cricket thoroughly up to date. "We have got to get the England team right," he said. "Everything flows from that. We cannot look at the recent progress of the England side and say these things are cyclical. There are fundamental things wrong."



Steve Waugh, so often the Australia saviour, is bowled by Benjamin for 37 to end the innings on Saturday

CRICKET

West Indies find enough pride to postpone era's end

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE (third day of five): West Indies beat Australia by six wickets

SO, NOW we know. West Indies are not yet a spent force. By winning the third Test match in Melbourne by six wickets, with two days to spare, they reminded everybody that, though their powers have diminished, they still retain their pride. With two Tests to play, at Adelaide and Perth, they could yet win the series and regain the Frank Worrell Trophy that they ceded to Australia in the Caribbean last year.

Courtney Walsh, their captain, will remind his players that they went to Adelaide one down four years ago, won there by one run and vanquished Australia on a fast pitch in Perth. Curtly Ambrose may chime in with a few thoughts of his own for he did most of the vanquishing that time on his way to 32 wickets, a record tally by a West Indies bowler in an Australian series.

Ambrose was again the match-winner on a bouncy pitch at the MCG, taking five wickets on the first day and

another four on Saturday to finish with match figures of nine for 72. His bowling was altogether too much for Australia, who surrendered their second innings for 122, leaving West Indies to get 87 for victory. Despite the loss of three early wickets, including that of Brian Lara to the excellent Glenn McGrath, they were safely home by nightfall.

Lara's form is the main area of concern as West Indies approach Adelaide. Ambrose has three weeks in which to nurse a sore groin, but the team's star batsman is looking increasingly exposed. He batted here at No 4, behind Shivnarine Chanderpaul, and has now made only 77 runs in this series. On Saturday he slashed McGrath to point — the fifth time the bowler has dismissed him in this series.

For once, however, it is the Australians who must take stock before the Tests resume. They have become such a powerful team in recent years, with an abundance of talented young players, that this failure has concentrated a few minds. Mark Taylor, an outstanding

captain, has not passed fifty in Test cricket for a year, and getting the shape and balance of the side right is proving troublesome.

Matthew Hayden and Justin Langer, the left-handers brought in to bat at Nos 2 and 3, made ducks on Saturday. Hayden, leaving alone a straight ball from Ambrose, was bowled and Langer, attempting to hook the bowler, offered a looping slip catch off his body and the back of the bat to Carl Hooper. Having dropped Ricky Ponting and Michael Bevan to accommodate them, they must now ponder whether to persist with these unproven batsmen at Adelaide.

It still seems extraordinary to English eyes that Michael Slater, the shot-making opener, has fallen from favour. His demotion, coupled with the freak knee injury to Matthew Elliott, has left the Australians vulnerable at the top of the order, the more so as David Boon's retirement has left a gap at No 3 that Ponting, for all his promise, has not filled. Perhaps it was asking too much of a man just turned 22 to match up to such high expectations. Whatever, they are in a bit of a pickle!

The bowling needs patching up, too. Jason Gillespie tore an intercostal muscle on his left side on the second day, and will be out of action for up to six weeks. Damien Fleming has been injured and Michael Kasprowicz has been dropped, so there may be a summons for Andrew Bichel, who has been among the wickets for Queensland in the Sheffield Shield and has been called up — along with Stuart Law — for the next round of one-day matches.

Through injury, loss of form and selectorial wavering, the team has been disturbed and, with a tour of South Africa prefacing the one to England in May, there are important decisions to be taken soon.

WEST INDIES: First Innings: S L Campbell lbw b McGrath 7 R G Strevens c Taylor b Warne 17 R G Strevens c Taylor b McGrath 55 B C Lara c Warner b McGrath 52 C L Hooper run out 7 J C Adams not out 74 J R Murray c Reiffel b McGrath 53 Total (4 wkt) 87

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-83, 2-38, 4-47, 5-54, 6-65, 7-78, 8-107, 9-133. BOWLING: McGrath 30-11-50-6; Reiffel 16-1; Warner 9-17-0; Bowden 2-5-13-0. Man of the match: C E L Lara.

AUSTRALIA: First Innings: M S Blaney 22, S R Waugh 50; C E L Ambrose 5 for 59. Second Innings: M L Hayden b Ambrose 0 T M Tait c Warner b Ambrose 10 J L Langer c Warner b Ambrose 19 S R Waugh lbw b Ambrose 37 G S Gooch c Warner b Ambrose 0 H A Headly c Warner b Ambrose 8 P R Reiffel bowled by Benjamin 18 S K Warne c Adams b Ambrose 18 J M Casper not out 5 G D McGrath not out 5 Extras (b 4, w 1, nb 11) 16 Total 122

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-22, 3-22, 4-22, 5-22, 6-22, 7-22, 8-22. BOWLING: Blaney 20-11-50-6; Reiffel 16-1; Warner 9-17-0; Bowden 2-5-13-0. Man of the match: C E L Ambrose.

Umpires: S Venkatesh (India) and P Parker (Australia).

Second Innings: J R Bishop lbw b McGrath 0 C E L Ambrose b Warne 1 *C A Walsh c M E Waugh b Warne 4 Extras (b 4, lb 7, nb 8) 14 Total 205

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-22, 3-22, 4-22, 5-22, 6-22, 7-22, 8-22. BOWLING: McGrath 30-11-50-6; Reiffel 16-1; Warner 9-17-0; Bowden 2-5-13-0. Man of the match: C E L Ambrose.

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Leicester inspire Greenwood to take centre stage

Harlequins 18
Leicester 34

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the curiosities about the advent of professionalism is not so much the players bought in by Harlequins but those of whom they disposed last summer: Chris Sheasby and Simon Mitchell went to Wasps, where they are pressing hard for league honours (the former also received belated England recognition), while Will Greenwood went to Leicester.

He returned to the Stoop memorial ground on Saturday and forced the admission from a member of the Harlequins coaching panel that any casual observer, told that an international team was playing, would immediately have selected for Greenwood in that role ahead of Will Carling or Gary Connolly, from rugby league. It was a *tour de force* by the 24-year-old that helped to deprive Harlequins of their unbeaten ground record and took even Bob Dwyer by surprise.

"At the start of the season I thought Will Greenwood was grossly overrated," Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said frankly. "Now I have started to think he looks pretty good." Dwyer, of course, did not see the Durham University graduate's development last season when he was playing alongside Carling, witnessing rather the stuttering start to this season at Welford Road when the entire Leicester midfield looked a lost cause.

However, before Christmas, against Bristol and at the weekend, Greenwood had the finished article. His distribution, in a bitterly cold wind, was outstanding, his work in tidying up the errors of his colleagues no less valuable and he will have taken particular pleasure from his try — Leicester's third — for which he stepped out of Connolly's tackle and then had the strength to hold off Carling.

He is able to play so well because Leicester, as a XV, have matured under Dwyer's patient guidance. The breadth of their game, from the first moment when they ran Harlequins' kick-off straight back, gives the lie to those who persist in describing them as a forward-based side only; nor is it a coincidence that they should have made vital steps since the return last month from suspension of Neil Back.

In terms of pace of the

game, pace of recycling the ball, urgency, that's the best we have done," Dwyer said. "Neil is starting to feel his way back into the patterns of the game and that makes a difference." Dwyer was a happy enough man before Christmas, when Leicester hit the top of the Courage Clubs Championship at Bristol, and now he witnessed a display in which Leicester sputtered out completely thoughts of their Heineken Cup semi-final with Toulouse next Saturday.

Leicester, meanwhile, have been forced to expand around £250,000 for a 2½-year contract to bring Thierry Lacroix to London, one of his primary aims being to kick goals which, against Leicester, neither Pilgrim nor Challinor could do.

Pilgrim missed three of his four first-half attempts as Leicester, against the wind, established an 18-6 interval lead. Nor could Harlequins make much of their lineout domination; Leicester threw in at no more than half a dozen lineouts, but for all the home side's efforts before a substantial crowd just short of 8,000, no sooner did they create openings than they knocked-on or were swallowed up by a voracious defence.

The Leicester forwards hunted together whereas Harlequins, for all the efforts of Cabannes, went in penny numbers. Even at the start of the second half they could not shunt their way to the line; Carling was dragged down by a marvellous cover tackle from Healey. Snow was held up on the line and Pilgrim knocked-on in the tackle by Wells that eventually forced the veteran flanker off with a damaged shoulder.

By contrast, Leicester were inventive and supportive, never more so than when Liley, seeing space behind the defence, side-footed the ball forward with all the aplomb of a golfer making the best of a bad lie. Underwood pursued it, deserved a fortunate rebound and wrong-footed the cover for his second try. Invention has not been a word necessarily associated with Leicester in recent times; it is now.

SCORERS: HARLEQUINS: Tries: Hare (2), Conversion: Challenor. Penalty goals: Pilgrim, Challinor. Tries: Underwood (2), Liley, Greenwood. Conversion: Liley. Penalty goal: Liley (2).
HARLEQUINS: Tries: Pilgrim, D'Olary, G Connolly, W Carling, P Bishop, P Challinor, H Harries, L Baines, K Wood, J Leonard, G Allison, R Snow, Gareth Lewellyn, W Davies, C O'Shea. Lewellyn replaced by I Pickup (79min).
LEICESTER: J Lloyd, S Hatchett, Lloyd, W Greenwood, R Underwood, N Malone, A Hargreaves, G Bowden, R Hargreaves, R Garton, N Wells, M Johnson, M Poole, N Beck, E Miller. Wells replaced by W Johnson (45).
Referee: B Campsell (Yorkshire).

Referee: B Campsell (Yorkshire).

Irish and West tune into twilight zone

London Irish 52
West Hartlepool 41

By BARNEY SPENDER

TEN DAYS ago, when three clubs were designated for the drop from the first division, this fixture had the nasty look of a relegation eliminator: a "must win" game for both sides.

The decision, however, by the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to increase it to four clubs changed all that, and both London Irish and West Hartlepool now look destined to finish in the twilight zone.

West cannot really cry foul, having benefited last season from a late decision to suspend relegation after they had finished bottom of the division. The Irish, however, are deeply concerned to a point where paranoia and conspiracy theories are beginning to take over.

"They'll do anything to get us out of the first division," one club official said after the game. "They don't want us; they don't want any exiles sides."

"They is presumably a mix of the RFU, the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs, Oliver Stone and the Freemasons, but on their performance so far this season, London Irish have not exactly needed any help in putting their place among the elite in such a parlous condition.

This was only their second win of the season, and the first since Willie Anderson took over as coach from Clive Woodward, the man who guided them into the first division last season.

The game was played at the harum-scarum pace that befits two sides battling to save their professional skins. There were ten tries and a masterly performance from Conor O'Shea, the exiles' full back. Otherwise, it was a game rife with errors: a constant supply of knock-ons, fumbles, missed tackles, errant passing, senseless running and needless penalties.

West, who again delayed Liam

Botham's first league appearance, made the better start and opened up a 24-16 lead after tries from Ions and Morgan, the flankers. But their defence was virtually non-existent and the Irish took the game either side of the break.

In first-half stoppage time, Niall Woods, the left-wing, tidied up a loose ball in the West 22, veered round to the right and set Bishop up for the try. Humphreys' conversion meant the exiles turned around just a point behind and, three minutes into the second half, they were leading.

A promising move out to the left appeared to break down when Henderson, ignoring a two-man overlap outside him, cut back inside and lost the ball in the tackle. Fortunately, it went backwards, and O'Shea, pressing Dominic Crotty hard for the Ireland full back position, picked up and battered his way through some feeble defence to touch down under the posts.

The Irish, through Davidson and Fulcher, began to dominate possession but West, to their credit, continued to battle to the last. John Stabler, the stand-off half, added a try to his five penalty goals and three conversions to swell his points haul for the day to 26 and the hard-working Connolly was also rewarded when he claimed a touchdown in the last minute.

By then, though, Barry Walsh,

(twice) and Henderson had scored; Humphreys had kicked his way to 22 points, and the committee men were already chuntering in the bar.

SCORERS: London Irish: Tries: Walsh (2), Davidson, Bishop, O'Shea. Conversions: Humphreys (5). Penalty goals: Humphreys (4). West Hartlepool: Tries: Ions, Morgan, Stabler, Connolly, Bishop, Woods, O'Shea (2). Conversions: Woods (2).
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea, N Woods, R Henderson, S Burns, J Bishop, D Humphreys, P Richards, L Mooney, R Wilson, G Hatch, K O'Connell, G Fletcher, J Davidson, R Davies, S Williams, C Murphy, J Morgan, R Bamshaw, J Morgan, Ions replaced by J Weston (60). Condie replaced by K O'Leary (55). Referee: C White (Gloucestershire).

Melville sounds warning as Rees kicks Wasps to victory

Wasps 18
Northampton 13

By JOHN HOPKINS

TWO of rugby's most respected figures expressed doubts about aspects of the game in England after this match, one that Wasps won but should not have and thus remained level with Leicester at the top of the Courage Clubs Championship first division. Since the men concerned were Nigel Melville and Ian McGeechan, directors of rugby at Wasps and Northampton respectively, their words need some heeding.

Melville was sceptical of the

cheque-book tactics adopted by some clubs. Since the most blatant example of buying in players at present is by Harlequins, his words will add spice to Wasps' game at home to Harlequins next Sunday.

"Building a team is a long-term

process," Melville said. "It is a team game. We have never said we are the all-singing, all-dancing team that can win at all times. We have a lot of young lads in our team and there is lots to work on."

"All the big names in rugby available at the moment are dropping off at the end of their careers. I am not sure that is what we want. I want the next Pienaar, the next Stranksy, the next Sella, the next Lyra. If we are to become like the southern hemisphere, we do not want people who are a bit past it. We have to get the players who are the best now. That is the only way we can get ahead."

The worry of McGeechan, the coach of the British Isles touring team to South Africa next summer, is that the spectators will not continue to be attracted to the game unless the standards continue to improve. If you ain't got a product worth watching, then in two years' time we

can hardly have been impressed.

Rees' inaccuracy was underlined by the success of Gareth Rees, who kicked six penalties out of six. Rees is no slyth and he and Tuigamala, side by side in attack on occasion, they were, make a fearsome sight. As Rees' teaching duties at Eton are to be eased this term, is it too much to expect him to have time to train and lose some pounds avaridupois?

This game was typical of many of the modern era. It was full of bad handling, bad passing and bad refereeing, and yet it was entertaining for the 5,000 spectators. They might not have been as warm as the pitch with its underfloor heating, but the level of commitment in front of them made sure they were not in danger of freezing to death.

SCORERS: Wasps: Penalty goals: Rees (8). Northampton: Try: Crundell. Conversion: Grayson (2).
WASPS: G Rees, S Rose, N Greenhalgh, A James, V Lupton, S King, R Williams, J Smith, J Catt, J Marshall, W Green, P Daigeler, D Cronin, A Reed, M White, C Sheeby. Griffin replaced by D McCoy (57min); Cronin replaced by R Kinsey (57). Mitchell replaced by D Mason (60).
NORTHAMPTON: C O'Brien, J Hunter, M Allen, R McNaughton, H Thompson, P Greyson, D Malone, M Voland, A Clarke, G Walsh, S Tapley, J Phillips, J Chandler, A Pountry, J Rodger. Rodger replaced by J Cassell (60). Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).



Underwood leaves the defence trailing during an impressive return in which he claimed two tries for Leicester

Toulouse's injured return in time for semi-final

By DAVID HANDS

TOULOUSE, who defend the Heineken Cup in the semi-final at Leicester on Saturday, seem likely to have most of their leading players available after a run of injuries to such notables as Emile Ntamack, their captain, and Thomas Castaignede, the exciting midfield player who has attracted the interest of the wealthier English clubs.

Though neither played in the quarter-finals of the Du Manoir challenge competition at the weekend, both are due to train with the team this week. A third international, Jean-Louis Jordana, came on as a replacement prop during the 35-16 win over Paris University Club and promptly found his way back to the sinbin after a series of technical offences.

Despite such problems, Toulouse remain leaders of pool one in the French first division and they scored five tries in progressing to the semi-finals of the Du Manoir, two of them by the wing, Philippe Lapoutre. A third came from Pieter Muller, the centre capped 17 times by South Africa.

Brive, who play Cardiff in the second Heineken Cup semi-final on Sunday, lost to Biarritz in the previous round of the Du Manoir and were able to rest their squad. They remain a significant force at home and are one of four clubs on 19 points in pool two of the first division, behind Montferrand and Perpignan.

Though Bristol United went down 27-25, Jones was happy with his return: "I came through the game without any problems and my confidence grew as the match progressed," he said. Jones, 31, will train hard this week in the hope of selection for the league game at West Hartlepool next Saturday. The break will also enable Bristol's captain, Martin Corry, to ensure that his recently-damaged ankle can take the strain. He was due to play yesterday and his forceful presence in the Bristol back row is vital.

Fylde cemented their place at the top of the third division by beating Leeds 13-0, a match notable for the dismissal of Nick Green, the Leeds player, for a stamping offence.

Friend.

Ally.

Confidante.

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a trade paper.



Tuigamala, left, of Wasps, fends off Nick Beal, of Northampton

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THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY AT

David Miller continues a series in which *Times* writers recall the best of 1996

Day Sampras served up helping of true grit



Either or both of two essential qualities go towards making the winner. There are, of course, others: luck, that imponderable fellow, or patience; temperament or stamina; often experience, sometimes a need for revenge; occasionally a sheer flash of anger, always practice. More usually, however, it comes down to exceptional ability and that rarer, indefinable quality — the iron in a competitor's spirit.

A few have both. Daley Thompson, for example, and Jack Nicklaus. Fred Perry and Denis Law had both. So did Herb Elliott and Ayrton Senna, so does Steve Redgrave. Nick Faldo, on the other hand, has been more conspicuous for the second quality than the first. What might be called the Rock of Gibraltar factor. It is a factor common to many female winners: Chris Evert, Mary Peters, Grete Waitz, Virginia Leng, and the new double Olympic champion from Russia, Svetlana Masterkova.

Trying to define the soul of different champions is an endlessly elusive exercise. The past year, including the Olympic Games in Atlanta, has seen many excel. Carl Lewis joined Redgrave as gold medal-winner in a fourth Games, stealing some of the thunder from that younger Achilles, Michael Johnson.

Yet if we are looking for iron in the soul, for action that tells us most about the inner man, the supreme figure of 1996 has been Pete Sampras. He touched the emotions during the US Open championships in a way few, if any, have done since Gabriel Andersson-Scheiss in 1984, when staggering semi-conscious towards the finishing line of the first women's Olympic marathon.

By Sampras's personal standard, 1996 was, perhaps, not a great year. It began with him still



Sick and groggy, Sampras refuses to yield, battling on to beat the Spaniard, Corretja, in the US Open championship. Photograph: Blake Sell

wearied from the previous season, which had ended with his substantial contribution to the Davis Cup final victory over Russia. In the French Open and Wimbledon championships, he had flagged. Here, supposedly, was evidence of a player whose body, if not his mind, was all played out — by his previous seven grand-slam titles, by his 26 career titles, which had already earned him in excess of \$22 million (about £13.5 million) in prize-money.

There was the feeling that he no longer needed the challenge, that:

at 25, he was already burnt out. How we were to be proved wrong.

Jump ahead of the story. Sampras was to demonstrate, for the second time in three months, his refusal to surrender when he defeated Boris Becker in an enthralling final of the world championships of the Association of Tennis Professionals in Hanover in November. Becker, belying his age at 29, had already won their round-robin meeting at this event.

He was set for a stirring climax in front of 15,000 Germans when coming from two sets to one down

to win a fourth-set tie-break 13-11 — only then to succumb in the fifth set.

That tie-break was a whole match on its own: 13 points against service, two match points for Sampras — both lost on rallies — and four set points for Becker before he secured the fifth.

TOMORROW

Rob Hughes recalls special moments that revealed the eternal passion for football

Yet if Sampras's courage then was something special, it did not compare with what had occurred on a sultry night in the crucible of Flushing Meadows in a quarter-final against the unheralded Alex Corretja of Spain, a 22-year-old never previously at this stage of any grand-slam event.

If I live to be 100 I do not expect to witness a braver performance than that by Sampras in the fifth-set tie-break, his vision blurred and his knees buckling as he vomited uncontrollably from exhaustion, yet refused to yield. If

had been a sterling performance by Corretja, ranked 31 in the world, who had set point in every set and now had match point in the riveting climax. It could be said that luck smiled upon Sampras as he tottered close to collapse, a double fault by Corretja on Sampras's second match point. Yet Corretja, too, had been pushed beyond the limits of concentration.

For more than four hours, he had traded aces with Sampras — 25 apiece — and had shaken him when taking a 2-1 sets lead. In the fourth set, Sampras had found a

'He touched the emotions in the US Open in a way few have done'

window for a way out of jail, a single, brilliant, half-volley drop shot for a service break that enabled him to level the match.

Entering the final set, Corretja, critically, had the odd game service lead: 1-0, 2-1, 3-2, inching his way towards improbable triumph. Trailing 5-4 and serving to save the match, Sampras first took a medical break in the locker-room, changing clothes and returning looking like someone entering the emergency ward. He held his service, but so did Corretja for 6-5. Somehow Sampras clung on for 6-6, forcing the fifth-set tie-break, that ultimate in ball-game Russian roulette. At 1-1, Sampras stooped, clutching his stomach, and was sick, though his stomach was empty.

Had Sampras at this moment walked away from the match, conceding defeat by retirement, none would have condemned him. His distress was too stark to continue was beyond the call of duty. I have seen occasional British players fold under one-fifth of such pressure, and Ryder Cup players in golf who have preferred voluntary capitulation to the possible worse, pain of reaching for victory, worse, pain of still failing. Sampras now continued to stretch out an ailing arm.

At 5-5, a smash brought him match point, but he lost successive points, to go match point down. The 20,000 crowd was held in breathless awe as Corretja served for the kill. Sampras returned, Corretja hit a cross-court forehand and Sampras, lunging as though grasping for the handle of life itself, struck a blind, winning volley.

Still in nausea, Sampras served for 8-7. Corretja, trembling at the magnitude of his position, double faulted. Victor and vanquished, with barely the strength to shake hands, stood equal in honour on this memorable night.

Foster tackles cost of career cover

The cost of a career-ending tackle for a low-division footballer is about £250,000. That is the estimate of how much Brian McCord was awarded in damages in the High Court a few days before Christmas.

McCord, whose right leg was broken in March 1993 when he was playing for Stockport County against Swindon City, said after the case that he had had to live on Income Support since his injury. Risk is present throughout the season, but the hard grounds of winter add to the dangers.

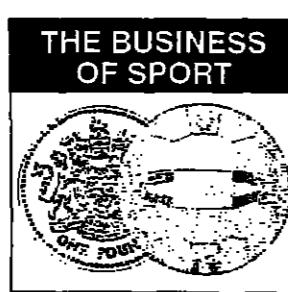
For 22 years, Steve Foster provided defensive cover for club and country. The end of last season marked his retirement as a player, but he will still be providing cover for hundreds of fellow professionals.

The former Brighton and Hove Albion captain has resisted the temptation to go into management and instead he, and a squad of former players, hope to sign up as many of those still in the game as possible and help them to manage the risks that threaten their careers.

Foster runs Pro-Secure, an insurance business to protect footballers from the sort of injury that can bring a promising career to a premature end. Gary Stevens, a one-time Brighton colleague, is one of those selling Foster's policies. Foster said: "He [Stevens] broke his leg and had to play on for a year because he had no cover."

Foster was not an obvious candidate to tackle the intricacies of policies and premiums. "When I was a young player, if anyone came in to talk about insurance or pensions, I'd make an excuse to go to the toilet and dive out of the window," he said. "I became Professional Footballers' Association (PFA) rep here about three years ago for the first time in my whole career. I got voted in when I had a day off."

"There was a young lad called Billy Logan who got his leg broken very badly. He could never play again. My job was to see what was on offer. He got £2,500 from the PFA through insurance. I looked into what policies there were and realised I'd been playing for 20 years without insurance and realised that what there was was inadequate."



Stealed for cut and thrust of life

BY JOHN GOODBOY

BARELY more than a sword's thrust away from the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Company at Stratford-upon-Avon, is one of the most productive cradles of fencing in Britain.

Few academic institutions possess such a concentration of young talent in any Olympic sport as King Edward VI School.

Renowned principally for its intellectual excellence and its medieval timbered buildings, where Shakespeare is believed to have studied, the school has established a distinction for proficiency in the sabre during the past decade.

David Kirby, the coach, partially accepts the premise that fencing is an activity that attracts intellectuals. "Although it requires the intelligence of the streetwise, a fencer has to process an enormous amount of information very quickly."

The sabre is the event at which Britain had generally been the least prominent in international competitions. Kirby believes that it is more dramatic than either foil or épée, which are thrusting weapons, rather than sabre in which hits can be scored with the side of the blade. "The sabre is swashbuckling. It looks and feels like a real sword. That is the attraction for young boys." Of the 432 pupils at the boys-only grammar school, about 50 fencers seriously and the decision to concentrate on the sabre was made three years ago.

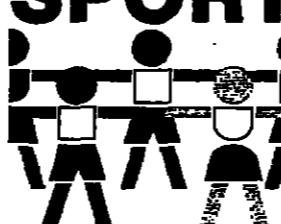
Kirby said: "We used to practise all three weapons. However, I realised that the

standard that we were achieving was too high for one person to coach at all three. We had not the time nor the resources — so the boys and I decided to concentrate on sabre."

The results have been startling. In the Munich tournament last month, one of the three under-17 European events from which competitors are selected for the 1997 world cadet championships, the two leading Britons, Mike Johnson, who finished 23rd, and Simon Whitbread, 27th, were both from King Edward VI School. In the British individual youth championships the same month, two other members of the squad, Tom Croft and Hugh Jackson, took the under-18 and under-16 titles.

Johnson, 18th in the 1996 world under-17 championships when he was only 15, has

SPORT IN SCHOOLS



been fencing since he came to the school at the age of 11. "The sport is not purely aggression, fitness, or technique. It is a combination. You need the balance," he said.

He was attracted by the sabre. "It is more aggressive and much quicker. You do not get so much closing opponents down. In the other weapons, you are looking for smaller openings."

The school fencers at least twice a week, including travelling to London to practise with the Britain Under-20 squad. On two other days, they do physical training and weekends are spent either in competition or in catching up with academic work.

Martin Joynes came eighth in the national under-17 championship in October, although he is 14. He would like to be ranked in the top five next year. He saw the sport advertised when he joined the school three years ago. "I was pleasantly surprised by the sport. It challenges your mind and body," he said.

"The boys themselves recruit for fencing," Kirby said. "The best recruitment officer is always the satisfied soldier."

NETBALL: BASKET OF MEASURES WILL HELP TO CULTIVATE YOUNG PLAYERS

New strategy opens way for future stars

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

THERE may be some truth in the adage that sportsmen and women are born rather than made but it still takes a minimum of six years to develop the complete netballer to polish a player capable of competing with the world's best. Recognising this, the All England Netball Association (AENA) is taking a close look at youth development.

The upshot is an embryo strategy that outlines ways of increasing and improving the quality of opportunities for young netballers. Covering umpiring, coaching and ad-

ministration, it emphasises the need for clubs and leagues to liaise with local authorities, schools and colleges.

Acknowledging that the days when coaches simply passed on techniques learned during a PE teacher-training course years earlier are long gone, AENA stresses that coaches today require detailed, up-to-date information on a kaleidoscope of topics including diet, fitness, mental preparation and anatomical mechanics.

Leading netballers demand assistance from sports scientists and AENA has a team of specialists employed to work

with the national English squads on a sports-science support programme, based at Manchester Metropolitan University.

At a time when there is increasing discussion about the development of British sporting excellence and more money than ever seems available for investment, netball is not intending to be left behind.

AENA has drawn up a national performance strategy that will enable the sort of back-up available in Manchester to percolate down to netball's youth development roots, creating vastly enhanced support for the most

promising young players and their coaches.

Designed to minimise the hit-and-miss approach to talent-spotting, the idea is that all young netballers should be allowed a chance to develop according to nationally agreed and scientifically implemented guidelines.

As Pauline Harrison, AENA's national director of coaching, said: "The younger in your junior team may well be an England player of the future. It is only by taking these opportunities and making the very best of what is on offer that we can really be sure of achieving excellence."

FRANK LE DUC



Whitbread, right, and Johnson, two of the leading Britons, cross swords, while Joynes watches the action

CYCLING

Early attack puts Clarke in control

BY PETER BRYAN

BARRIE CLARKE, in his first winter season as a full-time professional, used his bike-handling skills to good advantage yesterday to win the Royal Bank of Scotland cyclo-cross on an icy circuit and in a snowfall at Macmillan.

The result, with Clarke leading home his fellow internationals, Tim Gould and Carl Sturgeon, by more than a minute, confirmed his recent good form and makes him favourite to regain the professional championship next month.

The solid fences at least twice a week, including travelling to London to practise with the Britain Under-20 squad. On two other days, they do physical training and weekends are spent either in competition or in catching up with academic work.

Martin Joynes came eighth in the national under-17 championship in October, although he is 14. He would like to be ranked in the top five next year. He saw the sport advertised when he joined the school three years ago. "I was pleasantly surprised by the sport. It challenges your mind and body," he said.

"The boys themselves recruit for fencing," Kirby said. "The best recruitment officer is always the satisfied soldier."

Although alone in the lead, he still had several tense moments in lapping the race stragglers on narrow stretches of the course, one of whom was his partner, Brim's leading mountain biker, Caroline Alexander, who went on to win the women's event.

On present form, Clarke, who mixes a programme of cyclo-cross and leading mountain bike races, looks set for a place in Britain's elite cycling team to compete in the world cyclo-cross championship in Munich on February 2.

The Walker brothers, Harry and Brian, finished first and second in the Elmwood ten-mile time-trial near Tadcaster when both of them used the same bike, based on the Graeme Obree design to give a "slid" position. Brian, the fifth rider to start, completed the course in 21min 55sec and handed the bike to his brother, off number 33, who went on to record the fastest time of 21min 3sec.

HOCKEY

South West sights on title double

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

THE no-offside rule in the junior divisional tournament was exploited to the full yesterday, with high scores marking the end of the second day of the event, played at Clifton College, Bristol.

South West rounded off the proceedings with a resounding 6-1 victory over South East, after leading 2-1 at half-time. Of the four goals scored in the second half, two were struck with the reverse of the stick by Johnny Loose.

This victory put South West in a strong position to win the under-17 title, but Midlands, who defeated West 3-0, also at the end of the day, have a chance. All three goals for Midlands were directly scored from short corners by Adam Ross, Matthew Taylor and David Hutton.

South West could also take the under-15 title if they earn full points from North East, who have not yet won a match. After winning their three previous encounters, South West were held to an exciting 1-1 draw by South East, who kept in the match by their goalkeeper, Keir Starley, who made several diving saves.

James Webber scored early in the first half for South West, who allowed several chances to slip away. South East raised their game in the second half and Jonathan Stiff equalised.

A 5-3 win against the Cheam First XI was another link in the long chain of successes by Cheam President's XI in the annual Dick Hollands memorial match at North Cheam on Saturday.

In the 25 years that Tony Bennett has run this event, his president's team has lost only five times. The last occasion was in 1984, when they went down 4-3.

For a brief spell midway in the second half of the match on Saturday, the president's men had cause for concern when their lead was cut to 3-2, but Molloy and Knapp pushed victory beyond the reach of the club team with late goals.

In a fast and free-flowing march, Molloy scored three goals for the president's team and Knapp two. All three for Cheam were scored by the centre forward, Millburn, who combined well with Martin at inside right.

John Goodbody meets two runners who took control of their lives to meet the challenge of a lifetime

Go that extra mile to fight the flab



Christopher Loveday, above left, lost 84lb in weight during his preparation for the 1995 London Marathon. Patsy Carr went from couch potato to runner and, above, finished the 1996 London Marathon with friend Margaret Sherry



The best new year's resolution for any runner in the Flora London Marathon is to train steadily, eat sensibly and focus on the start-line in Greenwich on April 13.

With barely 3½ months to go before the 1997 race, many of the accepted entries are preparing to do what they would never have believed was possible — to run 26 miles 385 yards.

The marathon attracts elite

competitors, club runners, keep-fit enthusiasts and even unfit enthusiasts, thousands of men and women who will remember for the rest of their lives how they took up the challenge of completing the mythic distance. Many have used the race as a stimulus to their determination to keep fit and healthy, and, above all, get greater satisfaction from their lives.

Several have had to overcome the disadvantage of being overweight. However, they have become so entranced by the activity and benefits of running that losing weight is just one of its delights.

Christopher Loveday, 45, who runs his family's agricultural auctioneering business in Swindon, and Patsy Carr, 46, a mother-of-three and an employee of WeightWatchers in Liverpool, are typical. Their lives and bodies have been transformed by the experience

of training for the London Marathon.

Mrs Carr was scarcely active at school. "I had a go at everything but really only took any exercise when we were forced to do so." She married at 18 and had three children, all of whom are now adults.

The demands of family and work meant that she had even more excuses to be inactive. "I always was a couch potato. I was a junk-food addict." Her weight went up to 18st.

By 1991, she had had enough. She began to diet and lost 42lb. She joined WeightWatchers in 1993. "I needed sensible eating and control." She then started to exercise at a gymnasium. "I had a go at everything. I became interested in the running machine, although I was so unfit that after five minutes I nearly fell off."

Gradually she built up the training until she could manage 20 minutes. Margaret Sherry, her training partner, then suggested they should run outside.

"I said that I didn't fancy it. It was raining. It was cold. But when I got outside I couldn't believe the difference from a gym. The wind was so fresh and the atmosphere was so different. I had actually started running."

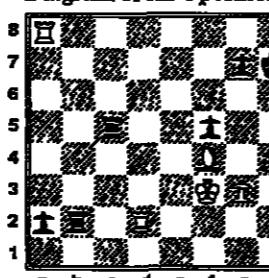
By then she was down to 12st. Soon the idea of entering events attracted her. She completed two half marathons and then became one of the fund-raising runners for the British Heart Foundation in the 1996 London Marathon.

"I had always watched the race on television, but had always thought the runners were in a different league from me. They were the healthy people. They were in control of themselves. However, now I wanted to be in control of myself."

By now she was down to 10st 2lb. And the prospect of raising an impressive £2,400 by combining with Mrs Sherry was an extra incentive. She completed the distance in 5 hours 35 minutes 33 seconds.

She said: "I am like a tortoise, but I keep going."

Diagram of final position

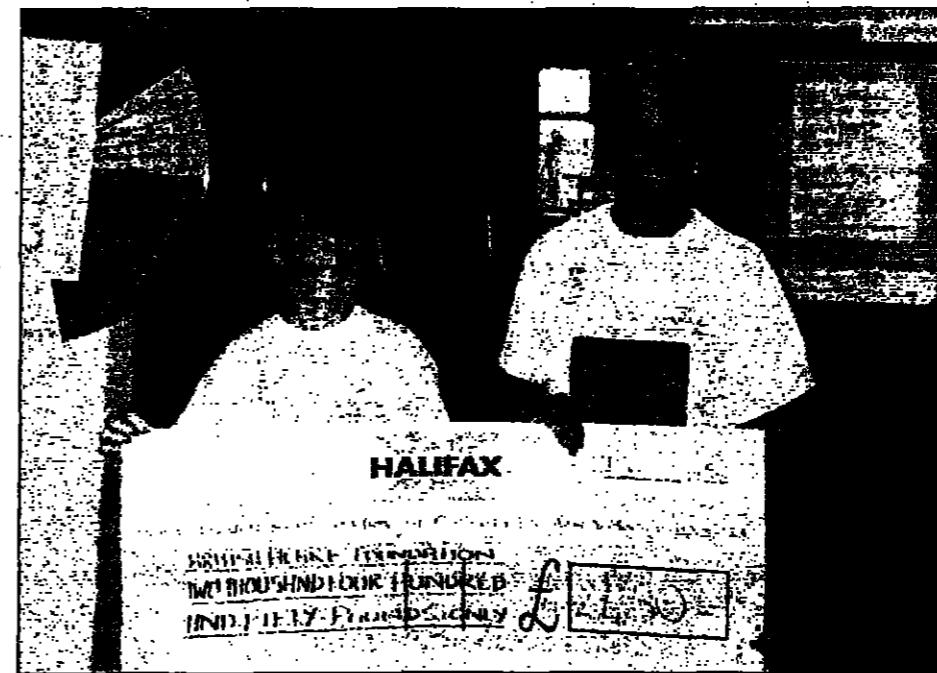


In a winning position Short's 42nd move was careless and Black could still have saved himself by playing 42... Rb1!

Hastings

After the first round at Hastings, the UK's strongest tournament, Mark Hebdon, Bogdan Lalic and Xie Jun of China, the former women's world champion, all lead with one point. The favourite, Michael Adams, lost to Hebdon, while in the battle between the two co-winners from last year, Bogdan Lalic, the Croatian grandmaster, defeated Stuart Conquest.

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.



Patsy Carr, right, and Margaret Sherry with their cheque for charity

Christopher Loveday's five tips to complete a marathon

1 If you are starting exercise and you are more than 40 years old, go to see your G.P. before you begin training. Find out whether there is any history of heart disease in your family before the visit

2 Losing weight is important. If you are very much overweight, join a slimming club

3 Take your running very steadily. Have one long run either at weekends or on your days off

4 Train with your colleagues. It alleviates the boredom on long runs

5 In the months leading up to the marathon, enter two or three races including at least one half-marathon — and wear the kit you will use on the day of the Flora London Marathon

Patsy Carr's five tips for healthy living

1 Never feel deprived in your eating. Have a little of everything but not too much

2 Don't be a couch potato. Take some light exercise

3 Take some sort of continuous exercise, such as running or swimming, three times a week. Keep going for at least 20 minutes each time

4 By all means drink alcohol but always in moderation

5 Be positive and believe in yourself in every mental and physical goal that you set yourself

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- THROCK
 - a. A traditional Irish waterproofing
 - b. Regional slang for Blackbird
 - c. A ploughhead

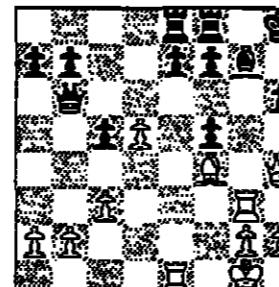
- TRAVADO
 - a. A Latin American tinker
 - b. A sudden, violent storm
 - c. A rock climbing harness

Answers on page 33

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Hubner — Miles, Tilburg 1985. Although for many years one of the world's very best grandmasters, the German Robert Hubner is equally well known in his academic career as a linguist. How did he translate his advantage here to victory?



Solution on page 33

Takeovers by foreign firms 'distort data'

LABOUR will today mount an attack on the Government's inward investment record, claiming that takeovers of British companies by overseas businesses have given a misleading lift to the figures (Christine Buckley writes).

According to Stephen Byers, Labour's employment spokesman, 60 per cent of inward investment in 1995 came from takeovers by foreign investors.

The takeovers of South Western Electricity by Southern Company and Seaboard by Central and South West Corporation accounted for a fifth of the inward investment.

SUNDAY TIMES FOR 1997

The Sunday Telegraph: Cable and Wireless, BAT Industries, Microvitec, Medeva, Capital Shopping Centres, Vardon, First Choice, Sears, Global Group and HSBC Hong Kong Growth unit trust.

The Sunday Times: Babcock International, Rank Celtic Football Club, Stamford Rook, the biotechnology company, United Biscuits, Allders, Menthone Abbey, the stationery and storage firm, and BAT Industries.

The Independent on Sunday believes the most likely takeover targets are

Boardrooms 'too biased towards the shareholders'

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE prime duty of directors is to the company and not to its shareholders, a report says today.

In evidence to a Stock Exchange-backed inquiry into corporate governance headed by Sir Ronnie Hampel, ICI chairman, the Centre for Tomorrow's Company says chief

executives and their boards appear to believe that it is their legal duty to concentrate attention only on pleasing current shareholders.

But the centre, established by the Royal Society for Arts, says that directors' duties are owed to the company broadly, not to any specific third-party group.

In its evidence to the Hampel inquiry, the centre says: "For directors not to give due weight to all the company's key relationships may well be a breach of fiduciary duty."

To do so, it says, may be to expose the company to undue financial risk as well as missing opportunities to add to long-term shareholder value through wider relationships with other stakeholders such as suppliers, customers and employees.

In a clear reference to possible new corporate law if Labour — which broadly supports the stakeholder approach — wins the forthcoming election, the centre says: "If companies wish to avoid the imposition of a more prescriptive format of new company law, it is becoming increasingly urgent that board

practice is brought closer into line with the spirit of the existing law."

The centre has also submitted as evidence interviews with 48 leading company chairmen and chief executives.

It urges the Hampel Inquiry to move beyond the approaches of the previous Cadbury and Greenbury inquiries into corporate governance, and to concentrate on what it calls companies' "duty to operate".

The centre says: "Compliance with Cadbury and Greenbury does not fix this. What is needed is a clear framework for businesses to be transparent and accountable both about their values and about the value which they add. Businesses need to demonstrate both by their behaviour and by their disclosure that they prepared to live and be judged by those values."

Mark Goyder, of the RSA, says: "You can envisage code after code, and the public will still be fed up with business. What we are saying is, let's try to address the issues and the values where the problem lies — which is business telling the public what it stands for."



Apocalypse over: Peter Hardy, the Lloyd's underwriter, with Russian helicopters in Hanoi

Limited liability at Lloyd's

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE concept of limited liability is today being introduced to names at Lloyd's of London, who have lost millions of pounds in unlimited insurance deals.

The new system, developed by Hardy Underwriting will allow Lloyd's names to keep their funds in the insurance market without the risk of bankruptcy. Other similar schemes are likely to follow. Rules allowing the formation of a limited-liability company

were passed by Lloyd's last summer.

Peter Hardy, who runs Syndicate 382, has created a separate insurance company, whose shares begin trading on the Alternative Investment Market today. Hardy Underwriting Group was priced at £10.65 per share, giving it a market capitalisation of £10.65 million. Syndicate 382 is primarily insuring marine and aviation ventures. The syndicate has created average

annual profits of 29 per cent since its inception in 1975.

Mr Hardy said: "Syndicate 382 has been one of the more consistently profitable syndicates at Lloyd's with an underwriting team that has worked together for many years."

Names at Syndicate 382 can switch their Lloyd's funds into AIM stock. They will receive dividends and profit from rises in the share price and, most importantly, be safe from bankruptcy.

Oil and gas production increases

By MARTIN BARROW

UK oil and gas production rose in November to the highest level since October 1995 and is expected to continue rising in the coming months.

However, falling oil prices and the strengthening of the pound curtailed the rise in revenue. Daily oil revenues fell 7.2 per cent on the month, although the value of oil production was £8.7 million per day higher than one year ago, according to the monthly Royal Bank of Scotland Oil and Gas Index published today.

The oil index rose 2.2 per cent to 164.0 in November and was 1.7 per cent ahead year-on-year. Oil output grew by 58,000 barrels per day (bpd) to just above 2.7 million bpd.

Gas production increased by more than one third during November to 10.3 million cubic feet per day and the gas index rose 35.6 per cent to 304.1, lifting it 15.4 per cent ahead of November 1995.

Brent crude prices fell 4.8 per cent in November to \$22.97 a barrel, although prices were still 36.5 per cent higher than a year ago. The sterling price fell 9.2 per cent because of depreciation of the pound against the dollar. In sterling terms, the price of oil is up more than 28 per cent year-on-year. The effect of falling oil prices and a stronger pound was that daily oil revenues fell 7.2 per cent on the month to £37.3 million.

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET																										
1996	High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)	Price/price	Wkly +/-	%	Ytd %	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)	Price/price	Wkly +/-	%	Ytd %	P/E	1996	High	Low	Mkt cap (£million)	Price/price	Wkly +/-	%	Ytd %	P/E
150%	122	13.90 AFA Systems	130%	150	-	-42	11.2		255	189	5.51 Romers	215	-	-15			78	37	3.49 Mtr Petrol	307	-	-75				
152%	109	21.40 AMCO Corp	150	150	-	-42	11.2		243	223	6.65 Focal St	267	-	-84	12.1		112	110	0.12 Mil Palm Wt	118	-	-39	36.5			
210	87	36.20 AND Int'l Pcs	150	150	-	-42	12.1		45	37	5.53 PWR Ridge	277	-	-24	12.1		103	102	22.60 Nutting Home	118	+ 1	-12	30.1			
15%	14	4.85 Amcor Rec P/P	145	145	-	-42	12.1		85	79	15.20 Finsbury Forest	187	-	-5	12.1		129	128	1.12 English Pub	103	+ 1	-12	16.2			
107%	95%	14.00 Access Plus	95%	-	-1	43	13.1		47	14	16.20 Freeplay	124	-	-24	12.1		84	84	2.40 Omeisima	104	-	-1	16.2			
161	75%	15.10 Action Imaging	85%	-	-10	39	13.1		144	147	4.70 Fortune Homes	141	-	-24	10.1		102	80	4.10 Du Line	102	-	-	10.1			
210	125	15.10 Action Imaging	85%	-	-10	39	13.1		150	152	15.20 Galleria Telep	125	-	-27	12.1		124	124	4.20 Global Biomedica	78	+ 3	-	12.1			
204	174	11.30 Adonis	111	-	-11	23.3	12.1		63	55	17.30 Gallstone Env	553	-	-			134	134	2.60 Pacific Media	87	-	-	13.4			
85%	65	11.30 Adonis	85%	-	-11	23.3	12.1		350	350	18.50 Gender Hops	115	-	-			227	227	2.70 Pan American Res	511	-	-1	16.0			
214	13	11.80 Adrenals & Bl	31%	-	-10	1.0	17.1		135	81	19.50 Giga Hops	115	-	-			215	215	3.20 S. African E&I	215	-	-	16.0			
127	4	13.69 Alpha Optique	35%	-	-3	1.0	17.1		135	81	20.50 Gold Mine Srd	16	-	-			422	422	3.75 Personal No Co	57	-	-	16.0			
105%	80	13.70 Ann St Biscuit	48%	-	-5	5.3	10.4		137	81	21.50 Alpha Optique	16	-	-			377	377	5.80 Palauplus Gd	103	-	-	16.0			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	22.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	9	-	-			705	705	24.50 Polynes. Pharms	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	23.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	2.40 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	24.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	2.50 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	25.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	2.60 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	26.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	2.70 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	27.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	2.80 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	28.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	2.90 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	29.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	3.00 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	30.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	3.10 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	31.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10	-	-			107	107	3.20 Pan Ocean Foods	107	-	-	15.5			
105%	80	14.30 Ann St Cr Pl	101%	-	-5	7.9	10.4		137	81	32.50 Gold Mine Srd Ws	10														



A share in New England

A TASTE of New England is coming to the City. A 78-seater restaurant is to open in Lower Thames Street in April, reflecting the region's flavours, from lobster sandwiches and chowder, to crab cakes and clam bake. Mittelman Caradoc-Hodgkins, the architects have kept the polished mahogany paneling and arch windows of the former merchant bank building, incorporating the style of a seafood yachting fraternity. Spearheaded by David Wilby, executive chef for Anthony Worrall-Thompson until recently, The Chartroom Restaurant Company is seeking investors for 46,000 £1 ordinary shares at £6 each.

French connection

THE London offices of Regent Pacific, the Hong Kong fund manager, should be interesting to visit in the new year after the delivery of an "installation" by Dominique Blondeau, the French artist. The piece involves flashing lights, a few snippets of Coke cans and dabs of paint. None at Regent has been brave enough to unwrap it yet.

A BUSY time of year for Michael Hardern, the arch building society carpetbagger. When Hardern relaxes, he tells me, he reaches for his essential reading — the Building Societies Bill.

Busy calendar

LOOKING through Erns & Young's attractive calendar I am left wondering whether the beancounters actually spend any time at their desks. In January alone, there is the London International Boat Show, the Holiday Show, the Australian Tennis Open, the Rugby Union Five Nations, the Superbowl...

MORAG PRESTON

Entrepreneurs with that extra golden touch

Jon Ashworth
on Britain's
growing band
of serial
millionaires

The fast-paced Eighties gave rise to a new phenomenon — the serial millionaires. Publicans, sportsmen and computer nerds made fortune after fortune, striking lucky with ideas that caught the popular imagination. The past year has seen more examples than ever of these golden entrepreneurs — and the pace shows no sign of slowing.

Sir Terence Conran and Richard Branson are among dozens of individuals to make their first million and then return to repeat the formula with similar success. Conran, 65, who founded Habitat in 1964, and built the giant Storehouse chain during the Eighties, did the same with restaurants in the Nineties, creating a gastronomic empire that continues to grow.

Problems at Butler's Wharf delayed Conran's fortune — estimated at about £50 million — but the success of Quaglino's, Mezzo and other fashionable venues, have secured his reputation as a serial millionaire.

Some of it is down to fate — the National Lottery and National Savings have created nearly 600 millionaires between them — but a healthy create their own luck. Some of the best examples are in the fertile territory of theme pubs and high street eateries.

Few can match the success of Michael Cannon, who struck lucky for the first time in 1993 when he made £23 million on the sale of Devenshire, his pub company. Hungry for more, he founded the Magic Pub Company and sold out to Greene King two years later for nearly £200 million. Cannon started in 1975 with a half-share in a pub in Bristol.

Another prime contender is David Bruce, who sold the Finkin chain of pubs to Midsummer Leisure for £6.6 million in 1988. He is now the single largest shareholder in



On the ball: David Whelan switched from football to business

Grosvenor Inns, which owns the Slug & Lettuce chain. Hugh Corbett is a millionaire three times over, founding Slug & Lettuce in the Eighties and then returning with a chain called Harvey Floor-bangers. That was sold in 1992, netting £4.5 million for Corbett and his partner. Corbett is now building a London-based chain of Tupubs.

Those still contemplating their next move include Derek Mapp, founder of Tom Cobleigh, the northern-based pub chain. He started with one pub in 1992 and recently sold out to The Rank Group for £95.6 million, making £6.4 million on the deal.

Roger Myers and Karen Jones cashed in July when Whitbread bought their Commonwealth 400 metres hurdles champion, branched into sports marketing after

million. The deal left Myers holding about £3 million in shares and options. Jones held a stake worth £2.7 million.

Sport, too, has yielded its serial stars. David Whelan, the former Blackburn Rovers defender, built a small supermarket chain in Wigan after a broken leg in the 1988 FA Cup Final curtailed his top-flight footballing career.

He sold out to Wm Morrison for £15 million in 1978, then paid £12,000 for JI Broughton, a 75-year-old Wigan sports company. He built JJB Sports into Europe's largest independent sports retailer, making £13.5 million when it came to the stock market in November 1994.

Alan Pascoe, the former Commonwealth 400 metres hurdles champion, branched into sports marketing after



Jones sold Pelican stake

Conran: gastronomic empire

quitting the track in 1978. He sold Alan Pascoe Associates for £7.5 million in 1986, then bought it back for £1.5 million six years later. Today, Pascoe is worth at least £5 million.

David Lloyd, the former Davis Cup tennis player, made £20 million when Whitbread bought David Lloyd Leisure in 1995. He opened his first club in Heston, west London, in 1982, and went on to build a fast growing health and leisure portfolio.

Perhaps the greatest British serial millionaire is Richard Branson, who started off selling records in the Seventies and went on to build a successful empire. Branson, 46, has modelled his Virgin Group on a Japanese *keiretsu*, linking airlines, financial services, radio and soft drinks in a loose association under the Virgin

name only.

That said, the National Lottery creates two or three genuine millionaires every week and a steady stream of executives continue to benefit from enormous boardroom packages.

The tradition of the small entrepreneur building a business then selling out for millions of pounds is alive and well. Some of them come back for a second round.

umbrella. Debt has not been an issue since 1992 when Branson sold Virgin Music to Thorn EMI (as it then was) for £50 million.

Branson's worth was recently estimated at £1.6 billion, ahead of Paul Raymond, the soft-porn publisher and Soho property owner, and David Sainsbury, head of the supermarket family. Since 1984, Virgin's revenues have grown from £50 million to £1.5 billion. Branson's family trust has the biggest stake in Virgin.

Some have yet to prove their mettle. Tim Waterstone, founder of Waterstones, the book chain, returns in 1997 with a chain of all-in-one children's shops. The first Daisy & Tom outlet, backed in part by DC Thomson, publisher of *Beano* and *Dandy*, will open in London in the summer. The shops will feature educational toys, videos and clothes, along with a "soda fountain" for thirsty youngsters. Waterstone sold out to WH Smith for more than £40 million in 1993.

The number of millionaires in Britain has doubled in the past five years, fuelled by rising property values and spiralling stock markets. About 200 new millionaires have been created every week, although how many actually have hard cash to throw around is another matter.

Property and shares make up 61.5 per cent of a typical estate on death, according to the Inland Revenue. Only 26.8 per cent was made up of cash and the rest comprised insurance policies, loans and household goods. Based on these figures, a sizeable number of Britain's more than 100,000 millionaires are tycoons in name only.

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The tradition of the small entrepreneur building a business then selling out for millions of pounds is alive and well. Some of them come back for a second round.

TOMORROW
The utility millionaires

For, and not for, children

Ridley Walker, Radio 4, 7.45pm. The Box of Delights, Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Any vestiges of festive bonhomie you might have been lucky enough to cling on to will start withering away after the first 15 minutes or so of Dominic Power's dramatisation of Russell Hoban's novel. This is nightmare stuff, set in a lawless post-holocaust Britain where furnished parents eat their babies. Who would never believe that this same Russell Hoban wrote classics of children's literature such as *The Mouse and His Child*. For another adult's re-creation of the anything-is-possible world of children, listen to John Peacock's two-part adaptation of John Masefield's superb fantasy *The Box of Delights*, with Donald Sinden magnificently over the top as the arch-villain Amber Brown.

The Emerald Affair, Radio 2, 10.30pm.

Cartoon Harry Lime had another eight lives left after getting his just desserts in the Vienna sewers in *The Third Man*. A minimum of eight lives, actually, because the old Light Programme of the BBC ran 32 episodes of Lime's further adventures in the 1950s Orson Welles, desperately needing cash to finance his cinema version of *Othello*.

was happy to play the resurrected crook. His voice was not the only feature common to both Carol Reed's film and the BBC radio series.

The dust of postwar Vienna was dusted off Anton Karas's zither and it was once again put to evocative use.

Peter Daville

RADIO 1

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour:
5.30am Europe Today, 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 Off the Shelf, 7.30 The Village Chat Show, 10.15 Words of Wisdom, 11.15 World Business Report, 9.15 Anything Goes, 9.45 Sport, 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf, 11.30 Omnibus 12.30pm World Business Report, 12.15 British Today, 12.30 And the Weather, 1.30 Crossword, 2.30 5.30 Sport, 3.15 The Learning World, 3.30 Omnibus 4.15 World Today, 4.30 BBC English 4.45 British Today, 5.00 World Business Report, 5.45 Sport, 6.30 Ciskei Update, 7.01 Outlook, 7.25 Words of Faith, 7.30 Multitrack, 9.05 World Business Report, 9.15 Sport, 10.30 World Broadcast, 10.45 The Big Picture, 10.45 Sport 11.10 Take Five, 11.15 Record News, 11.30 Multirisk, 12.30am Global Concerns, 12.45 Britain Today, 1.15 Outlook, 1.35 Words of Faith, 2.30 Omnibus, 3.15 Sport, 3.30 Mandarin Feature, 4.30 Europe Today

RADIO 2

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths, 6.00 Miles Reid, 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Margaret Howell, 1.00 The Concert, 2.00 Red Riding Hood, 3.00 Jamie Clegg, 4.00 Newsnight, 6.30 Sonatas, 7.35 Hippodrome, North London, 12.00 May Anne Hobbs, 4.00am Charlie Jordan, 5.00 Rita ladies of Jazz, 7.30 Sarah Kennedy, 9.30 Alex Lester, 11.30 Jimmy Young, 1.30pm Debbie Thorro, 3.00 Ed Stewart, 6.00 John Dunn, 8.00 Michael Lington, 9.30 Brian Bedford, 9.00 First Ladies of Jazz, 7.30 Sarah Martin, Honor Hefner and the BBC Big Band, 10.00 No Minor Chords, André Previn reads from his autobiography, 11.45 The Emerald After, 12.30 Hippodrome, North London, 12.00 May Anne Hobbs, 4.00am Charlie Jordan, 5.00 Steve Madden,

RADIO 5 LIVE

RADIO 6 LIVE

4.00am Mark Griffiths, 6.00 Miles Reid, 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Margaret Howell, 1.00 The Concert, 2.00 Red Riding Hood, 3.00 Jamie Clegg, 4.00 Newsnight, 6.30 Sonatas, 7.35 Hippodrome, North London, 12.00 May Anne Hobbs, 4.00am Charlie Jordan, 5.00 Rita ladies of Jazz, 7.30 Sarah Kennedy, 9.30 Alex Lester, 11.30 Jimmy Young, 1.30pm Debbie Thorro, 3.00 Ed Stewart, 6.00 John Dunn, 8.00 Michael Lington, 9.30 Brian Bedford, 9.00 First Ladies of Jazz, 7.30 Sarah Martin, Honor Hefner and the BBC Big Band, 10.00 No Minor Chords, André Previn reads from his autobiography, 11.45 The Emerald After, 12.30 Hippodrome, North London, 12.00 May Anne Hobbs, 4.00am Charlie Jordan, 5.00 Steve Madden,

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Jeremy Clark, 10.00 Graham Dorey, 11.00 Mark Williams, 12.00 Nicky Henson, 1.00 Paul Coyle (FM), 2.00 Paul Forster, 3.00 Randal Lee Rose

RADIO 3

PLAYWRIGHTS

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore, Includes *Bizet's Carmen*, *Verdi's Rigoletto*, *Glitter* (Seven Elizabethan Lyrics), *Devereux* (Cervantes), 7.30 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young, Includes *Zavatieri's Violin Concerto in E, Op 1 No 5*; *Verdi's Ave Maria*; *Chakovsky's Symphony No 1 in G minor*, *Wieniawski's Violin Concerto in A*, *Op 12*; *Alonso's A drama set in a football club* by Ed Thompson, 11.30 *Music From The Other Side of Midnight* from Hong Kong, 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

5.00am Early Breakfast, 7.00 Paul Ross, 9.00 Scott Chisholm, 12.00 2.00pm Tommy Boyd, 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Dwyer, 7.00 Moz, 10.00 Sportsnet, 10.00 James Whale, 1.00am Mike Dickin

RADIO 4

CLASSICAL

playwright David Hare, Includes *Beethoven's Symphony No 7*; *Bartók's Bluebeard's Castle*, 1.00 *The Little Red Riding Hood* (3.00 Jamie Clegg, 4.00 Sonatas, 7.35 Oboe Sonata in C major RV 79), 7.00 Sportsnet, 8.00 Sports Review of the Year, 9.00 *Class Waratah*, 10.00 *Class Waratah*, 11.00 *Class Waratah*, 12.00 *Class Waratah*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 4.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 5.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 6.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 7.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 8.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 9.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 10.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 11.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 12.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 1.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 2.00 *Violin Concerto in G minor*, 3

Of stones, bones and time-lapse trickery

Wilkie Collins may have written the first detective story, but the Sergeant Cuff we met in last night's adaptation of *The Moonstone* (BBC2) was the umpteenth television detective to grace our screens. When Collins created him, Cuff was an original. Now he is not. This was unfortunate.

We had met his type too many times before — the self-confident outsider, as happy talking to the lady of the house as he is to her maid. "What's to be done next?" asked Bedfellow the butler. "I'm going to look at the rose garden," replied Cuff. "For clues?" "No, I'm just fond of roses." Ah, we mused, the engaging eccentricity which no television detective dare be without. When Collins wrote that, it, too, was a first. Last night it was not. If Cuff had arrived driving a maroon Mark II Jaguar or departed on the back of Hetty Wainthropp's scooter... well, none of

us would have been a bit surprised. As I say, it was all very unfortunate.

It was also unavoidable, especially if you insist on boiling down Collins's complex masterpiece into a little over two hours of television. The BBC, however, trusted and we had to live with the consequences, such as characters no longer engaging in polite conversation but explaining a couple of chapters-worth of plot to each other instead.

Too sour, do you think? Perhaps so. For surely some Wilkie, albeit cruelly abridged Wilkie, is better than no Wilkie at all, and, for all my reservations, I did enjoy part one of Kevin Elyot's two-part adaptation. There were lots of coaches and pianos and buckets of not-altogether convincing rain. This, I suspect, means it was real.

But, more important, there was an excellent cast, led by Peter Vaughan, who seems to be making

a habit of playing butlers, and Antony Sher, giving it his typical all-as-the-curving Cuff. Greg Wise and Keeley Hawes made a handsome couple as Franklin Blake and Rachel Verinder, before the disappearance of the sacred diamond put an end to their relationship, pretty much before it had begun.

In the rush to get on with the story, it seemed to me that not enough time had been allowed for their budding romance. Collins's dénouement, as I presume we discover in tonight's concluding instalment, is not the most satisfying of final solutions and their love story has a crucial part to play.

Moving swiftly on; can I humbly suggest that if your Christmas break extends to new year, you spend the next three luncheons watching the Royal Institution's Christmas Lectures (BBC2), about fossils. If the first two are anything to go by,

hopes of a raptor-mad generation. *Jurassic Park* was just not going to happen. The DNA contained in fossilised amber remains had been found to be contaminated, the code for dinosaur life irretrievably corrupted. I waited for some of the younger members of his audience to be led from the lecture theatre sobbing. But nobody moved. Convinced Morris, you see, had promised that dinosaurs could still live again.

Quite brilliantly, he began to show how. His aim is to show that there is a lot more to palaeontology than bashing a lump of rock with a hammer and chisel. His approach is a multi-disciplinary one, calling on bits of chemistry, physics and biology to fulfil his original promise of bringing the bones back to life. Some of the science must go over the heads of his traditionally young audience, but when he finishes — as he did yesterday — by filling the lecture theatre with

the haunting warning call of a something-o-saur, I don't think there will be many complaints.

Nor should there be in the wake of *The Restless Year* (BBC2, Saturday), the one new contribution to the channel's rather indulgent *Natural History Night*. Time-lapse photography is considered old hat these days — seen one cloud scud, seen 'em all. Then, a film begins with an opening shot so breathtaking you have to watch the rest just to work out how a camera can pan through 180 degrees of a Cornish landscape and follow the course of the four seasons at the same time. I think I got there eventually... but they must have cheated with the sky, mustn't they?

Tim Shepperd is the man who knows. Having perfected the techniques during the making of *The Private Life of Plants*, Shepperd turned his cameras on the Cots-

wolds to wonderful effect. It wasn't just time-lapse — we were also treated to speeded-up milking parlours and slow-motion March hares — but it was that technique that stuck in the memory. True, some of the images of leaves expanding, shoots jostling and mushrooms doing whatever mushrooms do well out. But others, such as molehills appearing in a water-meadow or marrows growing in a vegetable garden were both fascinating and funny.

Despite the soothing tones of Norman Painting, aka Phil Archer, Richard Mabey's script — written presumably before his *Flora Britannica* filled a million Christmas stockings and put such hard work behind him — did occasionally jar. Cricket may be many things, but "an elaborate metaphor for the whole cycle of summer growth" is surely not one of them. Ask Mike Atherton.

BBC1

7.00am NEWS (2491301) 7.10 Joe '90 (745179) 7.20 The World of Richard Schell (765058) 8.00 News (500740) 8.10 Bad Boys (458901) 8.15 Peter Pan (746210) 8.30 Legend of Prince Valiant (648521) 9.00 News (362802) 9.05 Incredible Games (426110) 9.30 Record Breakers (33837) 10.00 Playdays (846557) 10.20 William's Wish (Wellingtons (9622818)

10.30 FILM: The Barefoot Executive (1971). Starring Disney comedy, with Kurt Russell (2380503)

12.05pm THE MUPPETS With guest, country singer Garth Brooks (2149834)

12.30 WIPEOUT (77653)

1.00 NEWS (T) (9176856)

1.15 REGIONAL NEWS (82775450)

1.15 NEIGHBOURS (T) (5845276)

1.35 NEIGHBOURS: 10TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL A behind-the-scenes documentary celebrating the popular Australian soap (T) (7246547)

2.15 THE WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN (T) (196497)

2.45 FILM: The Boy Who Could Fly (1986) with Lucy Deakins and Bonnie Bedelia. A young girl discovers her autistic neighbour is hiding an amazing secret. Directed by Nick Castle (T) (9586924)

4.30 THE WORLD OF PETER RABBIT AND FRIENDS (7036498) 4.55 Newsworld Review of the Year (T) (1210588) 5.25 The Big (T) (983092)

5.50 NEIGHBOURS (T) (7620905)

6.15 NEWS (T) and weather (430112)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (967768)

6.45 WINTER ON ONE (485740)

6.50 THIS IS YOUR LIFE (T) (4826553)

7.30 A MONKEY FOR ALL SEASONS David Attenborough narrates a film about Japan's macaque-monkeys (T) (T) (199)

8.00 EASTENDERS' Grant tries to put the romance back into his marriage (T) (5011)

8.30 CHEF Everton comes to the rescue when Gareth receives two very inviting offers from the women in his life. Last in series (T) (1818)

9.00 NEWS (T) regional news and weather (9818)

9.30 FILM: Death Becomes Her (1992) Novelist Goldie Hawn revives revenge against actress friend Meryl Streep for poaching her fiancé, even entangling thoughts of murder, but things take a bizarre turn when they each discover the secret of immortality. Also starring Bruce Willis and Isabella Rossellini. Directed by Robert Zemeckis (T) (622585)

11.05 REVIEW 96 Justin Webb reviews some of the year's major news stories (T) (531382)

12.25pm THE MRS MERTON SHOW CHRISTMAS SPECIAL (T) (2822200)

12.55 FILM: Billion Dollar Brain (1967) Michael Caine as secret agent Harry Palmer, who comes out of retirement to take a mysterious contract to Finland and becomes involved in an American mafioso's bid to take over the world. Directed by Ken Russell (925032)

2.40 WEATHER (8506035)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers next to each TV programme refer to the VideoPlus+ codes which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (""), PlusCode ("") and Video Programme are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2

7.00am THE PHIL SILVERS SHOW (b/w) (7383450)

7.35 GOING TO HOLLYWOOD Hollywood's portrayal of the American war effort (T) (3976158)

8.50 FILM: Command Decision (1948, b/w) Clark Gable stars as an Allied officer (4053737)

10.40 EISENHOWER, SOLDIER First of two parts profile of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Concludes tomorrow (T) (3875989)

11.45 THE ROYAL INSTITUTION CHRISTMAS LECTURES Professor Simon Conway presents his theory of why dinosaurs became extinct (770830)

12.45pm CLASH OF THE TITANS The 1981 Ashes series (T) (3855457)

1.25 THE ESSENTIAL GYMNASTICS (T) (8733566)

2.45 THE CAR'S THE STAR The Triumph Herald (T) (3873853)

3.05 GREAT RAILWAY TALES by Kerry with Michael Palin (T) (2872924)

4.00 LOVE ON A BRANCH LINE First of a four-part comedy drama (T) (5613455)

4.50 FILM: Brief Encounter (1945, b/w) with Celia Johnson and Trevor Howard. David Lean's classic romance (T) (2818837)

5.15 FILM: The Witches (1990) with Angelina Huston, Rowan Atkinson and Mel Zetterling. Horror fantasy based on the novel by Roald Dahl. Directed by Nicolas Roeg (T) (975301)

7.45 AN AUDIENCE WITH CHARLES DICKENS Simon Callow reads the story of Doctor Marigold. Last in series (T) (3451693)

8.30 CHANGING ROOMS Carol Smillie presents highlights from the series in which neighbours redecorated rooms in each other houses (2160)

8.45 A WOMAN OF INDEPENDENT MEANS (T) (754754)

Sally Field has made a speciality of playing doughty women and has two Oscars to prove it. As she is both executive producer and star of this three-part mini-series, the project clearly appealed to her. For one thing it affords her the challenge of playing a character who ages some 50 years. But above all *Bess*, Alcott, a Southern belle first encountered as a 20-year-old before the First World War, is another of Field's strong ladies. She has to be because although the family has plenty of money, is extraordinarily tragedy-prone. Bess's young daughter nearly dies after an accident, the family home goes up in flames, bubbly succumbs to pneumonia and we are not even through the first episode. Brenda Fricker swaps her Irish accent for American to play Bess's kindly mother-in-law.

A Woman of Independent Means Channel 4, 8.30pm

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Element of Doubt Channel 4, 9.00pm

David Pirie is a cinema buff which may explain why his thriller has uncanny echoes of Hitchcock's *Suspicion*. That 1942 film was about an English rose (Joan Fontaine) who marries a charming bouncer (Cary Grant) and suspects that he is trying to kill her. In *Element of Doubt* Gina McKee plays a schoolteacher married to a charming bouncer (Nigel Havers) whom she suspects of trying to kill her. Not only the broad plot, but little details such as the hero's nickname, recall the Hitchcock movie. But this is a homage, not a remake. Pirie works masterfully on his tale, cleverly building the suspense and staging a series of denouements that has no counterpart in Hitchcock. The performances of Gina McKee, edgy and vulnerable, and Nigel Havers, urbane and treacherous, are perfectly complemented. Peter Waymark

Gina McKee and Nigel Havers (8pm)

9.00 THE MOONSTONE Conclusion of the 19th-century detective mystery. As the Moonstone continues to haunt everyone who comes into contact with it, Franklin Blake grows ever more determined to get to the bottom of the mystery (T) (397108)

10.05 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU Highlights (T) (205853)

10.35 FILM: El Mariachi (1992). An action adventure starring Carlos Gallardo. In Spanish with English subtitles. Directed by Robert Rodriguez (T) (715721)

11.50 AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER (567301) 11.55 ALANS MORISSETTE IN CONCERT (285656)

12.00pm THE CATS' MUSE: The Curse of the Cat People (1942) With Simone Simon. A lonely youngster is haunted by a vision of her father's first wife. Directed by Gunter von Fritsch and Robert Wise (T) (1687702)

2.05 WEATHER (9741752)

SATURDAY

9.00pm THE MOONSTONE Conclusion of the 19th-century detective mystery. As the Moonstone continues to haunt everyone who comes into contact with it, Franklin Blake grows ever more determined to get to the bottom of the mystery (T) (397108)

10.05 HAVE I GOT NEWS FOR YOU Highlights (T) (205853)

10.35 FILM: El Mariachi (1992)

11.50 AFFAIRS TO REMEMBER (567301)

12.00pm THE BEATLES ANTHOLOGY (T) (412198)

1.10 FOOTBALL EXTRA Highlights from the Football League, plus news, features and competitions (7155412)

1.15 WAR OF THE WORLDS (T) (6410412)

2.50 GOD'S GIFT (T) (6157581)

3.30 ENTERTAINMENT '96 (804125)

4.45 FILM: Nicholas Nickleby (1985) Animated version of Charles Dickens's classic tale (T) (1715987)

5.40 SOUND BITES (3037948)

5.55 NEWS (1119325)

SUNDAY

7.00pm Love Connection (1987) (6131855)

7.30pm Another World (1987) (6131857)

8.00pm Saffy Jezz (1992) (6131859)

8.30pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131860)

8.45pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131861)

9.00pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131862)

9.30pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131863)

10.00pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131864)

10.30pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131865)

11.00pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131866)

11.30pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131867)

12.00pm The Moonstone (1990) (6131868)

1.00am The Moonstone (1990) (6131869)

1.30am The Moonstone (1990) (6131870)

2.00am The Moonstone (1990) (6131871)

2.30am The Moonstone (1990) (6131872)

3.00am The Moonstone (1990) (6131873)

LIMITING 33
Lloyd's adopts
the concept of
limited liability

BUSINESS

MONDAY DECEMBER 30 1996

MILLIONS 34
Entrepreneurs
with an extra
golden touch

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOPER

TUC fears working time opt-out will hit holidays

By OUR INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE TUC will give warning today that about six million workers in Britain will lose holidays if the Government succeeds in opting out from Europe's 48-hour week working time directive.

In advance of the coming general election, the unions will also say that the Government's move is "bad politics", and would affect about 9,000 people in every constituency. The Government wants Britain's

opt-out from the European Union Maastricht treaty social chapter to be extended to exclude the United Kingdom from Europe's working time directive.

John Major is insisting that Britain will not agree to any deal at the European Union's intergovernmental conference unless the United Kingdom's opt-out is extended.

This follows the rejection, by the European Court of Justice's legal committee, of the TUC's legal appeal against the directive, and the court's ruling that its measures

must now be applied in the United Kingdom.

As well as a limit on working time, the directive, for the first time, sets minimum holiday standards for all employees, bringing Britain into line with every other European Union country by granting a legal minimum of three weeks' paid annual leave.

John Monks, TUC General Secretary, says he suspects most people are left pretty cold" by many of the abstract arguments politicians have

about Europe — but that the working time directive offers real concrete benefits to people in work.

He says of the Government's move: "Going into an election promising to stop five million people getting some extra annual holiday seems pretty bad politics to me. That's about 9,000 people in every constituency in Britain asked to put a cross against a box marked shorter holidays."

In an analysis of the impact of the Government's planned move, the

TUC says that almost six million people would lose their holidays if the Prime Minister succeeds in extending the opt-out.

The court's decision will offer 5,868,000 employees in Britain improved holiday rights for the first time, the unions say, which would be lost if the Government succeeds in its move against the working time directive.

About 2.5 million employees, representing 12.5 per cent of the workforce, who currently have no

paid annual leave, will gain holiday rights for the first time. Of these, 1.6 million are women, with most working part time.

When the workers who currently have fewer than the three weeks' leave specified by the directive are also taken into account, the total standing to lose the rights offered by the directive rises to almost six million. Temporary workers in particular are likely to have no holiday entitlement, the TUC says in its report published today.

IoD says single currency threatens Britain

By OLIVER AUGUST

THE Institute of Directors has cautioned that joining the European single currency in 1997 would result in a threat to Britain's competitiveness.

In his new year rallying call to IoD members, Tim Melville-Ross, the director-general, said that "vitally important decisions concerning our future in Europe" would be taken in the coming year.

He said: "A decision to join the single currency in 1997 or at any other time in the foreseeable future would so constrain our economic freedom as to make it virtually impossible for us to compete successfully. We must continue to pursue our own independent economic policy within the single market."

Mr Melville-Ross also said that UK employment could be endangered by labour regulations set out in the social chapter of the Maastricht treaty.

KPMG Corporate Finance estimates that about 600 buy-outs and buy-backs were completed during the year with a total value of £6.77 billion, ahead of the record figure of £6.70 billion set last year.

Among the deals with the highest profile in 1996 was the controversial MBO of one of three privatised BR rolling stock companies by Porterbrook Leasing for £572 million. Porterbrook was sold to Stagecoach for £225 million six months later. Sandy Anderson, who led the buyout, took more than £30 million of the staff's £80 million profit.

Others include Testing Services, which was bought out from Inchcape; Dunlop Slazenger which was sold to its managers by BTR; and Powerhouse, the electrical retailer bought out from Hanson.

Another report due out tomorrow, from the Centre for Management Buyout Research at the University of Nottingham, is expected to confirm the KPMG estimates.

Mike Stevens, head of MBO services at KPMG, said: "Underlying economic conditions and the weight of institutional liquidity point to another good year for MBOs in 1997. There may be a pause in sales of smaller private firms, but pressure on public companies to release shareholder value through selling non-core operations will continue."

Expounding the benefits of free markets, he said: "We have growth with low inflation, no significant trade problems and falling unemployment — we are very proud of Europe. We must keep it that way."

Mr Melville-Ross concluded: "If the economy continues to be managed in a disciplined and prudent way, if we recognise that international competitiveness is the key to a prosperous society and if we have confidence in ourselves, there is no reason why we shouldn't be world beaters."

Job hopes at their best for seven years

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S job prospects now stand at a seven-year high, employment forecasts say today, suggesting a "prosperous" start to the new year.

The forecasts come in the wake of overall claimant unemployment falling just before the Christmas and new year holiday to below two million for the first time for six years, after a huge 95,800 monthly drop in seasonally adjusted unemployment — the biggest fall since current government records began quarter of a century ago.

Manpower, the job agency, in its latest employment forecasts, which it claims prefigure the Government's later official data closely, says today that job prospects for the first quarter of 1997 are at the most favourable point since 1990.

Looking at a sample of almost 2,200 employers across the country, the Manpower survey — which is one of the longest-standing in Britain, having been running for more than 27 years — says that 21 per cent of employers are forecasting an increase in job

levels, with 15 per cent foreseeing a fall. This net balance of 6 per cent is a three-point increase on the same period last year, and is the most optimistic first-quarter figure since 1990, Manpower says.

Manufacturing is the most optimistic sector, with a balance set at 15 per cent, with automotive manufacturing and general engineering even higher at balances of 28 and 21 per cent respectively. Telecommunications is the most optimistic sector, with a balance of a third of companies surveyed forecasting an increase in jobs.

The public and private building sectors both show increased job confidence, with a net 3 per cent of public employers in construction predicting increased employment, and a net 12 per cent in private building, in line with what is seen as a general upturn in the building industry as a whole.

Public sector job prospects overall are worse than the national average, with a balance of 7 per cent of employers saying jobs will decline. Regionally, the Manpower

survey shows employers in the South to be the most optimistic, with a net 15 per cent foreseeing job growth. While prospects in London remain below the national average, they are continuing to improve.

Job prospects in Scotland are below the national average in the Manpower survey for the first time in 12 months, while the North East is the only region with a negative employment forecast, with a balance of 15 per cent of employers suggesting jobs will decrease over the next three months. The North West shows the greatest upturn.

Lillian Bennett, chairman of Manpower, said: "It is heartening to see the new year off to a good start. Apart from increased optimism over job prospects, there are also signs of a recovery in overall confidence and investment, particularly in training."

She hoped that the uncertainty surrounding the general election would do nothing to inhibit the recovery and that the momentum could be maintained to avoid skill shortages.

□ B&Q, the chain of DIY stores, yesterday confirmed that it is to create 1,800 jobs this year at five new outlets in Coventry, Greater Manchester, Stockton-on-Tees, Merseyside and north London. The recruitment drive will increase the chain's workforce by 10 per cent, with the new jobs shared equally between full and part-time staff.



Porterbrook's sale to Stagecoach put Sandy Anderson on a fast track to £30 million

Update may cost Mercury £80m

By FRASER NELSON

MERCURY Communications could face a bill of up to £80 million to update its computer systems to process dates in the new millennium, as a legacy from its rush to enter the newly privatised telecommunications market in the Eighties.

Uwe Natho, Mercury's IT director, said the company had budgeted for £35 million to £40 million to be spent on the update, but said the bill could run to twice that amount.

Mr Natho said that in its haste to become established it had to compete against BT, Mercury bought software wherever it

told that an account starts in 97 and ends in 01, uncorrected programmes will throw up an error message, deducing 01 is an earlier date than 97.

While older companies face

larger bills, the sum came as a

surprise to many in the industry

who supposed that Mercury, which is only 12 years old, would run on more modern data storage software with a shelf life longer than 20 years.

Other companies are expect-

ed to follow suit in 1997. One

report put the worldwide

costs of correcting computers at £600 billion.

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